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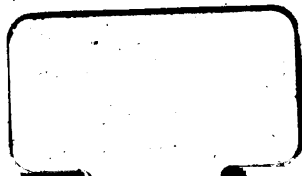
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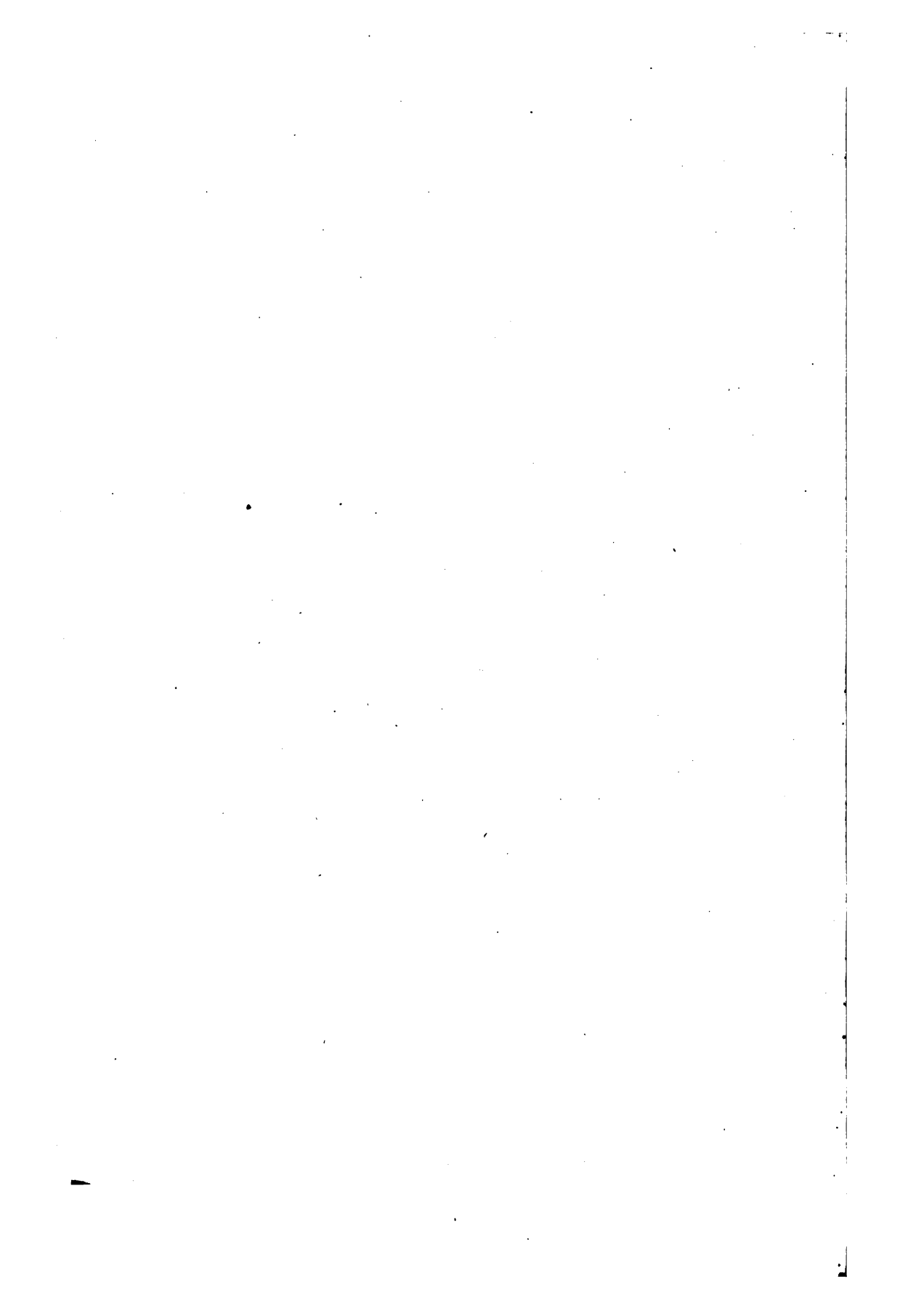
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HISTORICAL SKETCH

...OF THE...

Doylestown Democrat

1816-1916

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With Biographical Sketches of the Editors

In Commemoration of the First Century of the
Existence of the Doylestown Democrat



DOYLESTOWN PUBLISHING COMPANY
DOYLESTOWN, PA.

1916

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FOREWORD

The history of the Doylestown Democrat is a history of Bucks County during the last one hundred years. It is so woven into the affairs of this county as to be a part of it. It had its beginning four years after Doylestown became the County Seat and week after week since that time in a great diary it has chronicled the activities and accomplishments of her people and of the world at large. The memory of man fades with age, but the truth of what occurred and when it occurred is here chaliceed immutably in the archives of time. Into the storehouse of its columns the historian of the future will delve to learn the secret of the forces which have made the last century the world's epochal period of science, agriculture and invention, and from these reconstruct the whole fabric of History itself. A century ago this nation was in its swaddling clothes. Now it is the "Giant of the West," beyond cavil the greatest nation of the world, not only of our time but of all time. A century ago there was not a canal, a railroad, a turnpike in this county. Our hillsides were covered with virgin forests, our waters flowed unbridled to the sea. The wealth of coal and oil and gas that lay hidden beneath the soil, had not even

fired the imagination of our forefathers.

It is a long way from the sickle and the flail of our grandfathers to the farming machinery of today. It is still a longer way from the spinning wheels of our grandmothers to our great manufacturing plants; from the gig and the stage coach to the automobile and the pullman; from the sail ships to the dreadnoughts and giant liners; from the tallow dip to the tungsten electric lamp; from the Washington hand press to the modern Hoe. The century has almost eliminated space to lengthen time. The remarkable inventions by which man has been able to harness the forces of earth, sea and air stagger evolution and stamp the century as the marvel of civilization itself.

The forces which actuated man to such wonderful achievement are faithfully recorded in the pages of the Doylestown Democrat. Here also will be found descriptions of the changes in the manners and customs of our people, their types of character, their styles of dress, their methods of instruction, their development of fraternal societies and the many activities which have made the century distinctive. We can be pardoned, therefore, if we pause for a moment at the end of one hundred years and take a brief survey of the past, as we plunge into the untried paths of a new century. For a century is a long time when you live through it, although short in the annals of time. When we recall the many cotemporaries who have fallen by the wayside and that the Democrat stands alone in our county, it is just cause for congratulation, that the men who presided

over its destinies were able at all times to weather the storms of adversity and guide the good old ship into havens of safety. For what newspaper anywhere can call a roll of such illustrious men as edited the Democrat during the first century of its existence? Who they were and what they did will be set forth in these pages. It is sufficient now to say that the Doylestown Democrat is as strongly intrenched in the hearts of the people of Bucks County as it ever was; that it has always maintained its place as a leading exponent of good government, through party politics, and that it is better equipped in every department than it ever has been before. With a record of achievement of one hundred years it can courageously face the new century, confident that the principles upon which it was founded and the stars that have guided its course in the past, will assure it another century of life and progress.

To the newspapers that are older, it acknowledges its obligation, and from those that are younger it accepts congratulations.

WEBSTER GRIM,

President Doylestown Publishing Co.
Publishers of The Doylestown Democrat.



Century Sketch of the Doylestown Democrat

The Doylestown Democrat was first issued on September 16, 1816, by Lewis Deffebach and Company from a white frame building that stood on Main street directly opposite the present annex of the Fountain House. Unfortunately there is not now in existence the first issue. In February 1836 a fire of incendiary origin burned out the whole plant, files, records and even the subscription books, and the first issue of the Democrat added to the flames. By the aid of other newspapers printed here at the time, some of the files were regathered and there are now in existence complete files from 1829 to the present day and a large number prior thereto back to the fourth issue. This issue contains the "proposals" contained in the first issue and from this we gather that the Democrat was founded to uphold and further the principles enunciated by the men who established the National and State Governments and to supply its readers with the news of the day. The size of the paper was 11 x 19 inches a page with four pages of four columns each. Not until after the Daily was published was it enlarged to eight pages, although enlarged in size often and to eight columns. There was

only one newspaper here when the Democrat was established, the Correspondent, published by Asher Miner. This paper was subsequently issued under different names, and did not become the "Intelligencer" until 1827, but the Democrat has carried that name from its first issue. It can thus fairly claim the credit of being the oldest newspaper published in the County of Bucks.

In those days local news were scarce. The means of collecting it were very limited. The news items consisted mostly of foreign intelligence taken from the city newspapers. The advertisements were mainly of Philadelphia business houses, although Doylestown business and professional men were well represented. Lewis Deffebach, the first editor, had been a Democratic office holder before he came to Bucks County, as will be noted in the sketch of his life, and he was not mistaken in concluding that the Democrats of the county, as the Republicans were then beginning to be called, had need of a party organ. He was in advance of his party in naming the paper the Doylestown Democrat, but had the satisfaction before his death of seeing the party in Jackson's time adopt the name. The progress of the paper was slow. The Correspondent was firmly established and had the support of an influential part of the Republican party because of the neutral course which it pursued. Asher Miner had adopted this course with the idea of heading off the publication of another newspaper, and he complained bitterly to his Republican friends when he discovered that the Democrat was to commence publication. But Deffebach was not long in creating patronage and a place for his paper, although quite limited as to subscribers. The price of the paper was two dollars a year, payable six months in advance.

In 1816 the Republican party was thoroughly united in

the nation at large. Monroe had secured every vote in the Electoral College but one, and there was that "Era of Good Feeling" which was a noted political condition in the nation. But in the State that feeling did not exist. There was serious division which affected the local affairs, and in June, 1819, a rival Democratic newspaper, the Messenger, was established by Simon Seigfried, called the Bucks County Messenger. This paper was about the same size and was published from the frame building, later on occupied by the Democrat and Intelligencer and other newspapers, which stood where Seigler's brick building now stands. In his prospectus he said that "there are by computation more than 7,000 heads of families in Bucks County. Two papers are now chiefly supported by less than a fourth of that number and certainly the remaining three-fourths may afford patronage for the support of another, exclusive of the aid of many who would subscribe for several papers." This prediction did not materialize. The farce of publishing two Democratic newspapers, when there was scarcely room for one, ended on Jan. 2, 1821, in the transfer of the Messenger to Simon Cameron, and the placing of the Democrat in the hands of receivers who continued its publication until Jan. 2, 1821 when the ownership was transferred to Benjamin Mifflin. Both papers were advocates of the Findlay Republicans, but each tried to crowd his competitor into the support of Heister. The latter won at the Gubernatorial election and Simon Cameron and Benjamin Mifflin, both of whom were subsequently advanced to high official stations in the nation, were too practical to maintain losing propositions. About June 1st, 1821, they consolidated, each proprietor dropping a portion of his title, and in partnership issued the paper under the name of the Bucks County Democrat. Even with the consolidation

they soon concluded that prospects were not sufficiently inviting for strangers and in December of the same year they sold their interests to William T. Rogers, a practical printer, who had learned the "art of preservative" in the office of the Correspondent. As Deffebach had established the People's Guardian in Philadelphia after his retirement here, so Miffin established the Pennsylvanian, which, under his management, became a leading Democratic oracle in the State. After the consolidation, the Democrat was issued from the office where the Messenger was being issued, at the corner of Main and Court streets. It remained there until 1834, when Powel moved it back to where it was first started, further down the street. When the assignees sold to Miffin, they advertised that the Democrat had about 800 subscribers and in addition had about \$500 worth of advertising and job work per annum. In this, as in every subsequent transfer, no prices or considerations were ever mentioned. Rogers added a column and made the pages longer, but otherwise the paper kept its general appearance and the same subscription price. In those days the day of publication was Tuesday—sometimes changed to Wednesday.

Rogers was the first native proprietor, and because of this, he was able to acquire a larger share of the public patronage. He was popular, being an officer in the militia, and circulated among the people frequently. In 1827 Manassah H. Snyder had established the Bucks County Express, a German weekly still published here, and two years later, July 7, 1829, aided by political friends, he acquired the ownership of the Democrat and published it until March 8, 1831, when he sold it to W. H. Powel. Snyder had many wordy battles with James Kelly, then editor of the Intelligencer, but he got into more serious difficulty with General

S. A. Smith, one of the Independent Democrats of that day. Smith put the sheriff on the establishment, but Snyder was saved by his factional friends. After Snyder sold the Democrat, he continued the publication of the Express until 1836, when it was sold by the sheriff to John S. Bryan shortly before he was burned out. Snyder declared in his salutatory that his policy would be to uphold the principles which led Washington to the field and placed Jefferson in the Cabinet. He would steer his course by the principles which guided the Whigs in 1778, the Democrats of 1798 and the Jackson Democrats of 1828. As a Democrat, the men and measures of the Democratic Party were to receive his steady support and he would endeavor to be a faithful sentinel of the approach of danger. He put a new full dress on the paper and paid much attention to its literary development. Disturbances in the Democratic Republican ranks led again to the publication of rival papers. Francis B. Shaw, a lawyer, established the Political Examiner, and published it from the second story of his law office, a frame building on Main street where the Hart Bank was afterwards erected. It did not long survive. A year or two later the Anti-Masonic feeling became strong. It was a revolt against bossism in another form. It resulted in the establishment of another newspaper called the Anti-Masonic Register, and the division in the Democratic-Republican Party in 1832 produced still another paper called the Republican. These two latter combined and were published in the same building where the Democrat had started. They did not long survive. In March, 1834, Powel bought them and moved the Democrat to the same location. From that time until 1861 the name Republican was carried in small type after the title of Doylestown Democrat. A new Republican Party had been organized and the title was misleading.

Powel was editor of the Norristown Register before he came here. After his retirement in 1834 he went into mercantile business in Philadelphia. John S. Bryan, then a young man scarcely of legal age, took charge in 1834. He was the first proprietor who had grown up in the office, was a native of the county and he put the paper upon an enduring basis. He published it until May, 1845, a period of ten and one-half years. He greatly improved it in every particular, giving to it a finished appearance characteristic of the practical printer, but he never changed its size. It was during his ownership that the paper was burned out. This happened on a cold night in February, 1836. Bryan was aroused from his bed by his mother and told that his establishment was on fire. The flames had gutted the plant and presses, type, paper, files, subscription books, all were destroyed. A large portion of the week's edition had been packed ready for delivery by the carriers and these were likewise burned, along with the Express equipment. The fire was no doubt of incendiary origin. Bryan borrowed \$2,000 from the Doylestown Bank, and gathering up odds and ends, started an entire new plant in the building at the corner of Main and Court streets, where the establishment had been before Powel moved it in 1834. By strict attention to business he was soon able to repay his loan.

There was great rivalry between the Democrat and the Intelligencer and not a little feeling. The editors were the postmasters and distributed the mails from their offices. They were also the bidders to carry the mails, and the office which could win the contract had a great advantage in the delivery of their papers in the county. This was done in those days by horseback riders, or postmen as they were called. This illustrates one of many disadvantages with which our predecessors had to contend. In May, 1845, Bryan sold the paper to Samuel

Johnson Paxson, publisher of the Newtown Journal. He had previously (1842) moved the plant from the Shearer corner to his residence, still standing, located on the west side of South Main street, now owned by Howard W. Atkinson, the Undertaker. Here Mr. Paxson started on his successful career of 13 years as editor and proprietor. It was during his ownership that the Democrat had its greatest period of prosperity. Business poured in upon Paxson and he was compelled to issue supplements to provide for his public sale ads. His was the first newspaper to make collection and publication of local news a distinctive feature, and he improved its literary productions. It was during his ownership that serial stories like the "Doan Outlaws" were first published, and important court trials were fully reported. He was compelled to enlarge several times. In three months after he purchased, he enlarged from a page size of 17 x 24 inches, 6 columns, to 18½ x 24 inches, 7 columns. In June 1848 he enlarged to 21 x 29½ inches and made the columns wider. But this size proved unwieldy and in May, 1851, he reduced to 20 x 26 inches, 7 columns and retained that size thereafter. The secret of his great success was his constant striving for his paper day and night, and for this he had to undergo the penalty of ill health. He was on the hustings in every campaign and he made his paper the means of personal communication to his large list of political friends. It is small cause for wonder that his readers became loyal partisans of such a newspaper. He had subscription clubs in many localities of the county, the leading Democrats taking charge and seeing that practically every family was supplied with the paper. Larger quarters became necessary. To secure these Paxson purchased in 1847 the lot at the corner of Main and Court streets and erected the brick building, now the Monument Square

restaurant, moving his plant there about January 1, 1848. It was while in this building that he reached the ambition of his life. It was to operate a Hoe press, propelled by a steam engine, the first in this section of the country. For some unknown reason this building did not suit his needs and in September, 1853, just 63 years ago, he erected and moved into the present Democrat building, where the paper has been published ever since. This building has been changed very little since that time. An addition in the rear and a third story have been added. Since 1890 the composing room was transferred to the third floor and the second used for the Job Department. In 1904 the first floor was rearranged and more room secured. In 1847, during Paxson's ownership, M. H. Snyder, former editor of the Democrat, and C. N. Bryan began the publication of the Independent Democrat. This paper as a rule supported the regular nominees and consequently was not successful in creating an issue upon which it could prosper. Snyder soon retired, and in 1852 the paper merged into or was taken over by the Watchtower, a new paper edited by William P. Seymour. This survived but a short time and Seymour moved from the town.

So far as known, there are no copies of either the Political Examiner, the Jackson Courant or the Watchtower in existence. The publication of either the Independent Democrat or the Watchtower had no effect upon Paxson's prosperity. In 1858, because of ill health, he sold the Democrat to W. W. H. Davis, who had lately returned from public service in Mexico. Davis maintained the high standard set by Paxson, and the rivalry between him and the present Intelligencer was at all times warm though extremely friendly. Davis and Darlington, the proprietor of the latter, were associated in land operations and civic improvements and were the

closest of friends socially. The old bitterness and jealousies which had existed since 1816 were thus eliminated and, while an occasional harsh editorial during the heat of political campaign, appeared, the old venom and rancor were missing. This and the Union sentiments expressed by Davis did not suit a portion of the Democratic Party in the county and another new paper, the Standard, was started as a vehicle to spread their tenets. Unfortunately it took the side of Breckinridge and was glad to sell out to the Democrat in 1861, the same day that Davis left with his company for the war. Davis increased the size of the pages, January, 1871, to 23 x 30, 8 wide columns. In January, 1891, after the Daily Edition was started, the columns were made narrower and ten columns were put upon each page.

This was a very inconvenient sized paper to make up, print and mail and the size was changed to 18 x 22 inches for page, 7 columns, 8 pages, which size has been maintained to the present time. The Daily was made the same size, except that it was four pages instead of eight pages

The entry of the Intelligencer into the daily field compelled the Democrat to follow suit. In 1890 a number of leading Democrats of the county formed a corporation styled the Doylestown Publishing Company, took over the Doylestown Democrat, re-equipped the plant and began the publication of the Daily Edition. W. W. H. Davis was retained as editor. A whole new dress of type was acquired and a new Hoe press and steam engine purchased. Davis remained editor until 1901 when George MacReynolds, the present editor, succeeded to that position, although for three years his name was not so printed on the editorial page. Since 1904 the Democrat has been greatly improved in all of its

departments. New machinery has been added, including three linotypes, two of them entirely new, and its field of usefulness has been widened. Upon the establishment of the Daily edition, the price was fixed at \$2.50 a year and the Weekly edition reduced to \$1.00 a year.

In this cursory review of the life of the Democrat, several things stand out prominently. First, it was established as a party newspaper, upon the theory that good government in this nation can only be acquired through party action. It has struggled hard and often for its choice of men for nomination, often drinking the dregs of bitter defeat, but once the nominations were regularly made, no matter which side had won, it gave the nominee its strongest support. In all its long record there never was a time when it failed to support the regular nominees of the Democratic Party, national, state or county. This was because the men who presided over its destiny were partisans. No other but an uncompromising Democrat has ever occupied its editorial chair. This is not blind partisanship, but a strict and honorable adherence to the Jeffersonian doctrine of government which teaches that obedience to the will of the majority fairly expressed, is a vital principle in our Republic. Second, it has maintained its position as a gatherer and distributor of news and has supplied the need of the people of the county. Not only has it published this information, but it has opened its columns to the literature of the day. Within its columns are found bright, original gems of literature unexcelled by any writer in this generation. Third, it is remarkable for the able men who have presided over its destinies. Nowhere, not even upon our great city dailies, can there be found such a galaxy of able men as those who filled its editorial chair.

During its long existence it had 10 editors. Their

period of service was as follows:

Lewis Deffenbach, 1816 to 1820.

Benjamin Mifflin, 1820 to 1821.

Simon Cameron, 1821 to 1821.

William T. Rogers, 1821 to 1829.

M. H. Snyder, 1829 to 1831.

Wm. H. Powel, 1831 to 1834.

John S. Bryan, 1834 to 1845.

Samuel J. Paxson, 1845 to 1858.

W. W. H. Davis, 1858 to 1901.

George MacReynolds, 1901 to 1916.

Five of these editors occupied but the first 15 years, while the other five served the remaining 85 years. What these men accomplished is set forth in the brief sketches occupying the following pages. It was because of their ability and conscientious care in getting their news correctly published that the Democrat has never been a defendant in a civil or criminal case, a record which probably no paper of equal age can boast. Fourth, there were a number of newspapers established at the county seat, every one of which, except the Intelligencer, the last Republican, the Express, and the temperance advocates, were started with the purpose of neutralizing or destroying the influence of the Democrat. Every one of these represented some faction in the Democratic Party. But the good old ship has weathered all these storms. In nearly every instance it has picked up their water logged timbers and used them in its own upbuilding, until today it has a clear field (with the exception of the Mirror) among the Democrats of Bucks County who read the English language,



LEWIS DEFFEBACH

The history of the life of Lewis Deffebach is shrouded in mystery. Like a meteor that sweeps across the sky, he came and departed. We cannot tell where and when he was born or where and when he died. Why he came to Doylestown to start the Democrat is not even known. The first copy of the paper, so far as we have discovered, is not in existence, and we have no other explanation. That he was a man of considerable standing is attested by the fact that he held the office of Armorer for the State, was keeper of the Schuylkill Arsenal and later, and while he published the Democrat, was the Deputy United States Marshal for this district.

At the time of his coming, there was but one newspaper here, called the Pennsylvania Correspondent, edited and published by Asher Miner. Miner, a Federalist, tried to edit his paper so that it would be neutral in politics, and in that he had the assistance of a number of leading Democrats at the County Seat. Upon national issues this was then possible, for the Nation at large was just entering upon that "Era of Good Feeling," which had practically obliterated partisan political lines. In Pennsylvania it was not quite so unanimous. The term of Governor McKean, who had served the Constitutional limit of three terms, was drawing to a close and there was much contention as to his successor, the leading candidates being Findlay and Heister. There was, therefore, need for a Democratic newspaper, but what particular Democratic leaders urged Lewis Deffebach to come here and establish the Democrat, has never been told.

The first issue of the newspaper was upon September 16, 1816. Deffebach named it the Doylestown Democrat, and it retains that name to the present time. It was a strange name, for the Democratic Party had not then

been formed, but here and there there were evidences that the progressive wing of the Party was making the term "Republican" secondary. The Democrat was then published in the second story of the white frame building which stood on Main street directly opposite the present annex to the Fountain House. On the first floor was the store of Benjamin Morris, Jr. The size of the sheet was 11 x 18 inches, four pages, and was published every Tuesday under the name of Lewis Deffebach and Co. The fourth issue, October 8, 1816, contains the "Prospectus," a familiar style of naming "Proposals" of a later day. Evidently this prospectus was the same as the announcement in the first issue, and it shows that his idea in starting the paper was to publish a political one. This has already been referred to. Upon the expiration of the first six months, Deffebach appeals strongly for cash from his subscribers. He had put a new dress on the Democrat and, being a stranger, he had need for cash. At the end of the first year he increased the size. The patronage had increased also. Deffenbach took sides for Findlay and against Heister, and Findlay won out in the State, although he lost Bucks County. Samuel D. Ingham was the county leader, and after the fall election of 1819 he was appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth by Governor Findlay. He had been elected with John Ross to Congress from this district in 1816, but they were not good political friends. Although both friends of Governor Findlay, who had appointed Ross Judge here in 1818 to take Judge Wilson's place, it was not long before there was open war between the factions and the result was the establishment of a second Democratic newspaper here, called the Messenger, edited by Simeon Seigfried. In 1820 both Findlay and Heister were again candidates for Governor, and both Deffebach and Seigfried were supporting Findlay, and at the same time

accusing each other of being for Heister. But Heister was elected and neither one of the rival papers had any claim upon the patronage and public printing that was to be distributed from Harrisburg.

Meanwhile Deffebach had the Correspondent to deal with because he was not getting established as fast as he thought he should. In his issue of September 1, 1818 he says:—

“During a period of nearly two years our paper has been regularly issued,—no failure on our part can be assigned as a reason; and avowing our principles to be that which we trust we will ever cherish and which may descend with us to the grave, we have still a small subscription list in comparison to the Editor of the Correspondent. Why this should be we know not, unless it be that Mr. Miner is an old settler here and we, as strangers, cannot expect support adequate to our labor. Our weekly sheet presents equally as much as his—equally large in size—equally fair in its appearance—equally early in the communication of the latest intelligence, but not equally ‘impartial.’

“We propose to be Democratic Republicans. We know not, nor will we acknowledge any other name; to no other party then can we look for support. Unless fostered by the aid of our political brethren, it will be impossible that a Democratic paper can exist in the County.”

Notwithstanding this, a rival newspaper, backed up by the Ingham-Fox faction, made its appearance the next year. Two newspapers could not exist where one had not been supported properly before. The result was that the Democrat could not meet its paper bills and Deffebach, on June 19, 1820, made a voluntary assignment of everything that he owned to his two friends, William

Watts, then Associate Judge, and Benjamin Morris, his landlord. These gentlemen issued the paper for a few months when they found a purchaser in Benjamin Mifflin, of Philadelphia. The advertisement of the sale set forth that the Democrat had about 800 subscribers and had advertisements and job work amounting to about \$500 a year.

This ended Deffebach's connection with the Democrat and he removed to Philadelphia where, on November 20, 1821, he issued the first number of the People's Guardian. While he lived here he was elected County Auditor, being pitted for election against his newspaper competitor, Asher Miner.

Grave charges of irregularities in Deffebach's accounts as Deputy United States Marshal were made both in the Correspondent and the Messenger. They were probably campaign literature, for nothing ever came of them. Deffebach was a practical printer. He understood every detail of the business as it then existed. His memory was so retentive that he could set up an article at the case without having first written it, and his paper gives evidence of a finished mechanism. It is said that he was generous in his habits and that this accounted for his failure to accumulate sufficient funds to keep his paper going.

Lewis Deffebach has shared the common fate of pioneers. The institution which he founded failed in his hands, but other hands took charge and reaped the fruits of his acumen and foresight. He had, however, the signal honor of having established a newspaper that has lived longer than any other newspaper in this county, and few indeed in the whole State can point to a longer or more honorable record. Were he editing it today, he could say with St. Paul:

"I have fought the fight—
I have kept the faith,"

for he could go back over its long service in the cause of Democracy and would ascertain that the newspaper which he founded "has been conducted upon the principles which were the leading characteristics of the present General (Monroe's) Administration and State (Snyder's) Administration Governments," the promise that he made to his patrons in the first issue of his paper.

BENJAMIN MIFFLIN

The mild mannered editor who succeeded Lewis Deffebach on January 2, 1821, as proprietor of the Democrat, was Benjamin Mifflin. He was a member of the influential family of that name, a practical printer of liberal education. His career shows that he was a perfect gentleman, attending strictly to his business of editing and publishing a newspaper. It is reported that he landed here in the same stage with Simon Cameron. Whether or not this be true, it is a matter of record that he published his first issue of the Democrat upon the same day that Cameron issued his first issue of the Messenger. There was perfect peace between these rival editors. Both were practical printers, good business men and better politicians. It soon became plain to them that they were wasting energy, and in June they decided to consolidate. Cameron dropped the name Messenger and Mifflin dropped the term Doylestown and the combination title created was Bucks County Democrat. But the State patronage was gone and Miner held that of the County. The field was too limited for two such ambitious men. In October, 1821, they decided to sell to William T. Rogers, a practical printer then in the employ of Asher Miner, and both set out for new worlds to conquer.

Mifflin went back to Philadelphia where, with Mr. Parry, he founded the Pennsylvanian, a paper which became good Democratic authority and remained so for many years. His prominence became such that he was appointed to several responsible positions under the Federal Government. He died about the middle of June, 1866, having known personally every editor of the Democrat except the present one.

The record of his many and varied activities during the long period of forty-five years after he left the Democrat

has no relation to anything that occurred in relation to the Democrat or of the people of Bucks County, except that upon several occasions he visited here and at one time, attended a Federalist Convention in Doylestown as a delegate.

"Benjamin Mifflin was a quiet, correct and friendly gentleman and enjoyed the esteem of all who knew him," is the concluding paragraph of his obituary written by General W. W. H. Davis who had known him for upwards of twenty years. What higher tribute can be paid to any man! Although the period that he occupied the editorial chair of the Democrat was very brief, his dignified conduct of the paper gave tone and character to the establishment.

SIMON CAMERON

The editor of the Democrat who was the editor the shortest period of time, and who achieved the highest position in State and Nation, was Simon Cameron. In his early life he learned the printer's trade and when quite a young man, he came to Doylestown and bought the Messenger from Simeon Seigfried. On the same day that Benjamin Mifflin issued his first edition of the Democrat (January 2, 1821) Cameron issued his first number of the Messenger. His salutatory was as follows:

Having purchased the establishment of the Bucks County Messenger from Mr. Seigfried, I propose to continue its publication. In commencing my editorial career, I conceive it a duty incumbent on me to make known the principles on which I intend conducting the paper in the future. As it is much less difficult to make promises than to fulfill them, I will briefly state that the character of the Messenger shall be kept Democratic. At the same time, it will keep aloof from all local divisions or prejudices that may exist in the Republican ranks; nor shall it ever assail the character of private individuals. But it will keep a vigilant eye on the conduct of public men and expose their errors as devoted to miscellaneous literature in which shall appear original and selected essays on agriculture, manufactures, arts and sciences, morals and soon as detected. A portion of the paper shall be religion. . . .

SIMON CAMERON.

In the next issue the new editor asked his readers not to consider the first number as a specimen of what the paper would be later on. He tells of his difficulties and disadvantages in the establishment of a country newspaper, and hopes his readers will consider these

things as a sufficient excuse for the lack of news. The Messenger had only been established in June, 1819, so that it was practically a new venture. It was a four-page size, about 12 x19 inches, five columns. It appears to have had the financial support of Hon. Samuel D. Ingham, then Secretary of the Commonwealth under Governor Findlay, because nearly all of the advertisements were from the State. The two wings of the party were gradually uniting again against the common enemy, the Federalists. With the lessons gathered from the failure of Lewis Deffebach, it was apparent at once that with no live issue dividing the factions and stirring the people, that two Democratic newspapers could not exist. The paper was published then on Main street near the Court House, about where the Seigler building now stands, although it is just possible that the location might have been near the Correspondent office at the rear of the Court House. Cameron and Mifflin did the wise thing for both of them when they made arrangements to consolidate the Doylestown Democrat and the Bucks County Messenger. This was in the first week of June, 1821. The firm name of the two proprietors was Cameron and Mifflin. Thereafter strong appeals to the party were made to get together. The partnership did not last long. In December, 1821, the firm sold out all their interests to William T. Rogers, and left the town. Cameron was fortunate in being a relative of Governor Schultze, for Schultze not only took good care of him, but he cared for pretty much the whole family as well. He appointed James, then proprietor of the Lancaster Sentinel, an Alderman in Lancaster and also gave him the contract to print the Pamphlet Laws. He appointed his brother John the Register of Wills in Dauphin County and Simon was favored with the position of Adjutant General of the State.

From that time General Cameron, as he was commonly called, had a rapid rise in politics. He held a number of important positions and finally, in 1845, entered the United States as a Democratic Senator, succeeding James Buchanan. In 1849 his term expired and, although some one named him for nomination, he received no votes in the Legislature. The majority of Legislature then in joint ballot, was Whig. Cameron calmly waited for the next term and, in 1855 he turned up as the American candidate and was elected over Buckalew, Democrat. Those were the days when Know-Nothings were triumphant, although, had the Democrats united in the Legislature, they could have easily elected their candidate. The Legislature had taken five ballots in February without reaching a choice and then had adjourned over until after the October election. Cameron resigned in 1861, when he was appointed Secretary of War by Mr. Lincoln, and resigned that position when the administration could no longer tolerate the scandal and inefficiency in the office, to accept the Ambassadorship to Russia. In 1867 he again became a candidate for the Senate, that office being more agreeable to him, and was re-elected, serving ten years or until 1877, when he transferred the Senatorship to his son, J. Donald Cameron, just as easily as he would the title to his farm. J. Donald himself held the office for twenty consecutive years, two years longer than the total service of his father. So powerful, politically, was Simon Cameron that the organization which he had built up enabled himself and son to establish a political dynasty unequalled by any Pennsylvania family before or since.

General Cameron retired when age was creeping upon him, to that rest upon his farm, and there passed the remainder of his days, free from the turmoil of politics.

He died in old age full of riches and honor. Occasionally he would return to visit the scenes of his first struggles in newspaper work. He had some old friends here with whom he loved to spend a few days, and among them the Democrat. In one of these visits, in August, 1871, he made mention of the great changes that had taken place since he had lived here just fifty years before. In this half-century, Doylestown had indeed made great progress and from the little village as it was when Cameron lived here, with but four streets, it had grown to be a prosperous borough with paved streets, water and gas.

There yet remains here a number of persons who remember with pleasure this visit of General Cameron upon that occasion. That he always kept a warm spot in his heart for Doylestown is shown by his gift of fifty dollars towards the soldiers' monument now standing in our midst, and by his endeavors to do everything that he could upon all occasions for everyone who came to him for aid from this town.

Simon Cameron did not long remain in Doylestown. The irony of fate led him elsewhere to seek that fortune so well deserved. What would have been his measure of success had he remained here no one can tell, but it is a pretty sure guess that neither he nor his son would have served in the Senate of the United States. Time after time the Democrat, although never approving of his "boxing the political compass," expressed its pride over his remarkable political advancement and reminded its readers that he had been at one time a member of its own household.

WILLIAM T. ROGERS

It is given to but few men to be as useful to a community as was William T. Rogers and at the same time occupy such exalted positions in the State and nation. It can be said with entire truth that no man who ever lived here surpassed him in civic accomplishments of a permanent nature and certainly none ever lived here who exercised more commanding influence in his party councils, in State and nation than did William T. Rogers. From the plough boy he ascended the ladder of fame rung by rung, until he had reached the position of President of the Senate of Pennsylvania, a position only inferior to that of the Governorship itself, and First Vice President in the National Convention of his party. In civic pride none excelled him, for it is due to him that we have our splendid cemetery, our water works, our turnpikes and our Borough Charter, and it is beyond dispute that the ladder upon which he climbed to these heights was none other than the Doylestown Democrat.

William T. Rogers was born in Philadelphia in 1799. Shortly thereafter the family moved to Warrington township, this county, and the boy was apprenticed in 1813 to Asher Miner, then editor of the Correspondent, to learn the printer's trade, spending seven years at the business. In October, 1821, he purchased the Democrat from Cameron and Mifflin and embarked upon a long and successful political career. Unfortunately very few, if any, of the first issues by Rogers are extant. The paper was four pages, 12 x 19 inches, four columns. Rogers added the name of "Farmer's Gazette." He is the only editor of the Democrat who was without Democratic rivals, the "Express" and all other papers having started since. An inspection of the newspaper shows marked improvement over the issues of Cameron and Mifflin, his predecessors. It is also worthy of note

that he lived long enough to note the death of every editor who had ever edited the paper prior to General Davis.

When Rogers took charge of the Democrat, the Democracy had just gone through a severe internal strife. The Old Guard, as the Findlay Democrats were called, and the Progressives, as the Heister Democrats would now be called, had buried their differences pretty generally over the State, and in our County this was evidenced by the consolidation of The Democrat and Messenger, representing these two factions, early that same year. Rogers therefore came upon the editorial stage at an opportune time. He was the first native editor and that was of assistance to him. In one of his early issues (February 26, 1822) he reminds his subscribers that his is the only Democratic paper published in the County, and printed too by a native of the County, and expresses the hope that the Democratic-Republicans will rally around him and give the paper their united support. This was a slap at Asher Miner, who was not a native here, but was conducting what he called a neutral newspaper, the Correspondent.

On January 1, of the following year, he announced that six hundred copies are issued weekly and distributed in every township of the county, as well as the adjoining counties of Montgomery, Northampton and Bucks. In those early days there were few papers issued and their circulation was not limited to county lines as at present. Whether from policy or merit, he early got into controversy with the Correspondent, but his language was chaste compared with Snyder's, polished compared with Bryan's and dignified compared with Paxson's. The Democrats lost the County upon Governor and the important offices, so that there was necessity then as now to urge the "unterrified" to do their duty. Ingham was in Congress,

but Stephen Brock was sheriff, and the parties were pretty evenly divided. In that same year Miner had resigned the Postmastership to take the appointment of Justice of the Peace and Charles E. DuBois was appointed postmaster to succeed him. Rogers was appointed postmaster in 1823 and held that office until November, 1829, when he was succeeded by his successor as editor of the Democrat, M. H. Snyder. Miner had been postmaster ever since he started his newspaper in 1804, a period of 17 years. It was considered the proper thing in those days to have the postoffice in the newspaper office. When Miner printed the Correspondent, it was located where the Loeb house now stands on North Main street and there the town journeyed for its mail. DuBois had it in his office adjoining, but when Rogers was appointed postmaster, he took it to the east side of Court and Main, years afterward the Shearer building, the site of the present Seigler building, and it was there when Snyder was postmaster and published the Democrat. When Snyder disposed of the Democrat to W. H. Powel, he moved the Express and with it the postoffice, but in 1835 his old arch enemy, General S. H. Smith, wrested it from him and took it to his store on South Main street next door to its present location, and that ended the connection between the newspapers and the postoffice forever. In those days they did not have a system of stamps, like at present. A patron paid for his mail as a rule when he got it, and quite frequently the mail remained undelivered because the recipients would not pay.

In February, 1824, Rogers, postmaster and editor, announced in the Democrat that "In future no letters will be delivered out of the office without the cash, and persons wishing to avail themselves of a credit, will be required to make a deposit in the office."

A novelty which Rogers introduced was the cut of a Washington hand-press at the head of his editorial column, and you could almost see the paper issuing from the press, so real did it look! Does the reader comprehend what is meant when we speak of printing papers on a hand press? It meant 1200 impressions with all the muscle the inker and pressman can put into it, and what Rogers did, every other printing plant in the country, large or small, did in the same way. What a mighty revolution has taken place in the art of printing and publishing within the century period of the Democrat! Today the pressman pushes an electric button, and 16 pages complete (in our cities) are turned out faster than you can count them. We now set type by a keyboard on the linotype. Rogers did not live long enough to see this latter, but he did see the two revolution Hoe, driven by steam power, of which he never dreamed. In the early part of July, 1829, Rogers sold the Democrat to M. H. Snyder and retired from newspaper work forever, at the early age of 30 to devote himself more largely to politics and military affairs. In the latter we find him holding a commission before he bought the Democrat, and he continued climbing up until finally he reached the rank of Major General of the divisions of Bucks and Montgomery counties, and thereafter he was entitled to be addressed as "General." He is always spoken of by that title. John Fox had been Major General of this Division, but resigned in 1830 when he was appointed Judge. The duties of a Major General required him to travel into all portions of Bucks and Montgomery counties. The office had a comfortable salary for those days attached to it and Rogers made the most of his opportunity to enlarge his acquaintance-ship and secure the prestige which he acquired and held until the period of his death. It also gave him practical

information when the Military Laws were to be revised. That period came when Rogers was in the Senate from this county in the session of 1838. He drew the bill reorganizing the militia and placing it on a firm basis, with the aid of the other "Generals" in this county, and put it through the Legislature, receiving the approval of Governor Porter. He was particularly strong with the "Doylestown Grays," the fine military company at the county seat. When his first term was drawing to a close, he presented the Grays with a big bass drum. This afforded a fine opportunity for his friends in the company, who were in the majority, to send to Harrisburg a set of resolutions, laudatory of the services of Senator Rogers. It likewise afforded him the opportunity to respond in kind. Like many imitators since, he did not neglect to "appear" as expected. He addressed them in a neat reply, which was read at the next meeting of the company, in which he said that in early life he imbibed a fondness for military tactics which terminated at the expiration of his commission as Major-General of the Second Division, that still he had no disposition to separate himself from military associations, but on the contrary nothing would afford him more pleasure than to meet at the festive board his comrades and there cordially participate with them in a manner which will, he knows, serve to strengthen the bond of fellowship and social feeling which the endearing scenes of "Auld Lang Syne" first drew around them.

That surely was a master stroke calculated to catch the military and its effect was electrical. When the Whig leaders heard of it, they became enraged and abusive, a certain indication that it had had its effect. The columns of the Intelligencer were full of bitterness, probably because James Kelly, the proprietor, was a candidate against Rogers that fall. To make matters

worse, the Democrats were instrumental in getting up a great Harvest Home celebration in Doylestown in the latter part of August, that year. Crowds were here from distant points in the county. A great parade of the Militia took place with General W. T. Rogers Chief Marshal. As he came up Main street at the head of the line, all eyes were naturally upon him. He needed nothing more to bring his candidacy to popular notice and, although Mathias Morris, Whig, won out for Congress again, this time with nearly 200 majority, Rogers had about 250 majority over Kelly. This was a great victory in the days when elections were generally very close.

It was about this time, probably a few years earlier, that Rogers concluded to take the law into his own hands. He was pretty safe in doing this because he was on intimate terms with Judge Fox, the Judge's daughter having married Rogers' wife's brother, and the Judge was also the fountain of political power and prestige at that time. The editor of the Norristown Herald (still published) named William Hodgson, was an Englishman and a personal friend of Kelly of the Intelligencer. Upon one of his visits here, perhaps to call on his future wife, the daughter of Samuel Hall, he set up and had printed in Kelly's office, a handbill of an abusive and infamous character, intended to make trouble in the family of Rogers. The source was traced to Hodgson. He denied all knowledge of it, but Rogers satisfied himself that he was the author. He accordingly prepared himself and the next time he found him here, took down his cow-hide and followed him above his office, overtaking him in front of the Court House. There he accused him again and upon Hodgson denying it, he chastised him so severely that he carried the marks for days afterward. Hodgson made no resistance,

and at every stroke of the raw-hide yelled "Bloody murder," then took to his heels, with Rogers cutting him as he ran. When he found that he could not escape from a severe and disgraceful punishment, he fell or dropped on his knees and begged for quarter and forgiveness. The account of the occurrence says that Rogers was so disgusted at this cowardly act that he left him in contempt. Hodgson never had the courage to lodge a prosecution. This is the same Hodgson whom Bryan committed an assault and battery upon some years later when he found him challenging some Democratic voters at the polls.

General Rogers, although a quiet, peaceful man, was a man of moral and physical courage. Once possessed of a conviction, he fought it through until he won in the end.

It was during Rogers' first term in the Senate that he made his brilliant fight to support Jackson against the rechartering the United States Bank. That was an unusual fight in this State because the seat of power of this financial monster was here and in this county. This was used against Rogers when he was a candidate for re-election. When he returned to Harrisburg for his second term (the Legislature met every year then), he had one pet project. He wanted an appropriation of \$10,000 to assist in building a turnpike from Willow Grove to Doylestown. Rogers occupied a peculiar position. He was a Democrat of the strict construction school. He found no authority in the Constitution for the money that the Legislature was appropriating for canals and railroads and he voted consistently against these public improvements. When, therefore, his bill came before the Senate, a Senator from the western portion of the State urged the defeat of the bill upon the grounds above given. Rogers, however, had enough

friends to pass the bill, but the Governor vetoed it on the ground of "insufficient revenue." The next year Rogers renewed the fight and he got not only his bill, providing for the incorporation, but his \$10,000 besides. This legislation enabled the road to be built. He could not be president of the turnpike while in the Senate and his friend, Judge Fox, became president, retaining that position until his death in 1849, when Senator Rogers was elected to succeed him. He was president of the Doylestown and Centreville Turnpike at the same time, having been president of the latter since its organization. For this reason, no doubt, he resigned the presidency of the Willow Grove in 1850 and was elected secretary. Thus General Rogers has the honor of being the "father" of both of these turnpikes leading out from the County Seat, and was president of the one and secretary of the other until the time of his death.

During the second year of his second term he put through a number of bills of a local character, two of which are particularly worthy of mention, the first securing the State Road from Doylestown to Chalfont, and the second, and to us most important, the charter for Doylestown borough and the act incorporating it. There had been many meetings to get this legislation. As far back as ten years previous, meetings had been held here and the Legislature memorialized, but nothing was accomplished until Senator Rogers took hold of the project. When the Centennial of our Borough is celebrated in 1938, due credit will be given Senator Rogers for the organization of this town into a borough.

These things he was able to accomplish because of his tact and ability. When he returned to the Senate the next year, his prestige with his fellow Senators was increased and he was chosen to preside over that august

body (the only one from this county in the last 100 years who ever did so). His majority for Speaker was more than his opponents had votes. This position enabled him to be chosen as one of the Senatorial Delegates (there were only two from the state) to attend the Baltimore Convention the April following. In that Convention, which renominated Martin Van Buren, there was a bitter fight in New York, as there nearly always has been when a son of New York is a candidate for renomination. Senator Rogers was a National Delegate. Upon reaching Baltimore he was made first vice president of the Convention, an exalted honor, for it meant taking the gavel in the absence of the chairman in what was then the greatest deliberative body in the world. After the Convention was organized, Senator Rogers was made chairman of the Committee upon Credentials. His committee heard the contest of the New York delegation and reported against seating them. That report was adopted by the National Convention and the whole state of New York was not able to cast a single vote or take any part in the deliberations of that Convention. Whether that action was right or wrong, we are unable to say, but it was a foolish move at best, for William Henry Harrison, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," swept the Democracy from their long lease of power and the action of that Convention had much to do with the result. But the fact that Senator Rogers was chosen by the national leaders for that position, which all knew was the crucial test in the Convention, speaks volumes for our delegate from Bucks County, and had Van Buren been successful, no man could have foretold how high Rogers would have risen in the national arena.

During the next four years General Rogers was busy with his mail contracts. He had a large number, one running from here as far as Kutztown and it kept him

busy to see that they were faithfully executed.

He was again National Delegate in the Conventions of 1848 and 1852.

Rogers was an active spirit in the Horse Companies. He was president of the Fellowship Company for twenty years and until the time of his death, succeeding John Robbarts, the first president. Much of the credit for the success which this company still possesses is due to the regulations proposed by him. He was also the president of the Beneficial Society and later secretary of that society until the time of his death, holding that office many years, possibly during the whole course of its existence. The Society was a branch of the State Society, built the hall now owned by the local lodge of Masons, and was a flourishing organization for many years, during which the steps of Doylestown people were turned to the Hall of Beneficial Institute.

Among other offices of a political character held by him were those of Collector of Canal Tolls at Bristol three terms, and Sealer of Weights and Measures in 1851 and Revenue Collector for the District in 1855 and 1856. He was in the State Committee in 1863 and Chairman of the Democratic County Convention the following year. He made a great speech at the Court House introducing Richard Vaux. He was not on political terms with Judge John Ross, and was one of the men who formulated the charges and went to Harrisburg to testify in favor of his removal. He was the local representative of the Bucks County Agricultural Society when the meetings were held in Newtown, and was mainly instrumental in securing the transfer to Doylestown, serving on the first committee of the Doylestown reorganization. He never would be a candidate for local office, although he served a few terms as Councilman and Clerk to Borough Council from 1848 to

1851, when he was defeated for reelection by Richard Watson, Esq., who was afterwards Judge, and he was Street Commissioner in 1856 and 1857. He was at all times ready and willing to take his place in the community, and in whatever position he served, whether humble or exalted, he rendered the most efficient service.

But his most important enduring achievements were the acquirement of our water works, the establishment of our cemetery and the procurement of our Act of Incorporation, the last of which has already been referred to. The water question fight was a long and heated one. On the last day of December, 1850, the the old mill property belonging to the estate of Sandham Stewart was put up at public sale and bought by General W. T. Rogers, Judge Hart, Lewis Apple, Elijah Lewis, George Hart and Rutledge Thornton, a self-constituted committee, for the sum of \$6,000. These men announced that they had purchased the valuable springs for the purpose of turning them over to the borough for the establishment of a water supply for the borough. They had the burgess to call a meeting in Beneficial Hall to consider the project. Three weeks later the meeting was held. Rogers was then Clerk of Council. At this meeting Burgess Samuel Kachline presided. The call was read and General Rogers read a long statement addressed to the citizens of the borough, in which he showed that the sole object of the committee was to procure the valuable privileges for the borough. The borough was urged to purchase just what it needed and no more. He proposed that the borough take the mill property and 20 acres and the balance could be sold to advantage. By doing this the cost for the mill and 20 acres would only be \$2,908, and the rent of the mill alone was \$180 in addition to the taxes which would net

6 per cent. The money to buy could be borrowed at 5 per cent. He reminded the citizens that this was the opportunity to secure an abundant supply of good, soft water at a very small figure, and referred to the disastrous fires in neighboring towns. George Lear, Esq., moved that a committee to collect information be appointed and report a plan for water mains for general use and security against fire. This committee comprised fifteen leading men of the borough. On January 31 this committee submitted a lengthy report, giving the approximate cost of equipment, basin, pump, pipe, excavating, labor and the mill property itself, aggregating \$9,500. After deducting the income from the mill they figured the net cost to the borough to be \$325 per year, and this was to be taken care of by taxation. They had considered the question of the riparian rights of land owners further down the stream, and disposed of that. They advocated that these valuable rights be not handed over to a corporation, but held and operated by the borough itself. The report of this committee was adopted.

General Rogers then moved that a committee be appointed to report a plan, and ways and means to complete it and the advantages and disadvantages of taxation or of an incorporated company. Upon this committee were appointed General Rogers, George Lear, Esq., Captain H. J. C. Taylor, S. J. Paxson and John S. Brown. This committee proceeded with their investigations, and, after giving them to the public, arranged for a public test to ascertain whether the public wanted the water or not. All sorts of ridiculous arguments of the mossbacks in the borough were used to discredit the project. Some were afraid the water was not pure; others were afraid the pipes would burst; others had deep wells and better water; still others thought there

was enough water in the wells to put out fires. The result of the test was 109 votes for water and 57 against. About a month later the borough election was held and the water people won.

The committee then went forward with their work. They visited water plants in Trenton, Burlington, Camden, Philadelphia, Norristown and Mt. Holly to find the best water system and in September, after advertisement, gave a contract for the construction of the borough plant. Meanwhile the opponents were busy agitating. Secretly at the next election they supported men pledged against the project for Borough Councilmen and elected them, with the result that there was a complete tie up. Some wag said that they had

“Built a basin on the hill,
Then waited for the rain to fill.”

That was true, for there were no pipe connections and the men who had opposed the project also tried to make the committee shoulder the cost, although the contracts had been signed by James Gilkson, Esq., Chief Burgess. By the influence of General Rogers, who was then president of the cemetery company, the borough, under an act of Assembly, had been presented with the present site of the basin. The opponents won again at the next election and the following one and then the project was dropped for years. Looking back over the intervening period and remembering how progressive the people of Doylestown as a rule have been, it is scarcely believable that there were so many short-sighted people among our grandsires. But Rogers lived long enough to see his plan vindicated. Slowly the mossbacks acquired some foresight. The agitation was renewed and at the spring election of 1866 a council pledged to the introduction of water was elected. An Act of Legislature was passed, authorizing a bond issue not to exceed \$35,000, and after

a fight in the courts, our splendid municipal plant was in running order. The one man to whom credit must be given for acquiring this great boon to the people of the town is William T. Rogers. When everything seemed lost he held on to the property, so that when the short-sighted majority in the borough who were afraid of a few dollars of expense had come to their senses, the property was still on the market.

The same is true (only in a more certain way) of the Doylestown Cemetery. As far back as 1849 Rogers conceived the idea of establishing a cemetery for the town, and in November of that year he, in connection with a few other men, bought ten acres at the public sale of the Robert Armstrong estate. In July following they had it incorporated as Doylestown Cemetery Company, and Rogers became its first president. In fact he was practically the whole cemetery company, for when he resigned the presidency it was only to become the secretary and manager. Lots then sold for \$10 and \$20 according to location, and no person could buy more than one of the high-priced lots. It was Rogers' idea to have planted the large number of beautiful trees that now shade the paths and walks of our cemetery, making this "God's Acre" a beautiful spot for a burial place. In 1853 he succeeded in getting the chapel built, and about one-third more ground added. About 200 ornamental trees such as Larch, Balm of Gilead and Sugar Maple were planted. It is not our purpose to give a history of this cemetery, but we refer to it only to show the part which General W. T. Rogers had in its organization and development. It was his pet project and he had a right to be proud of it. He watched over its government and growth as a father does over a growing child, and the result has certainly justified all the time that he spent upon it.

From this simple narrative it will be seen that General Rogers devoted the greatest part of his talents and energies for the benefit of the public without compensation or the hope of reward. Unselfish almost to a fault, he left behind him monuments that will endure long long after the gold that men gather has been scattered and forgotten.

General Rogers' last years were clouded by domestic troubles over two of his four sons. John P., the eldest, was a bright man possessing a wealth of imagery and poetic expression, rarely equalled. His descriptions are masterful, as every one who reads his "Danielstown and Desolation," or his "History of the Doans" must conclude. But he was erratic and uncontrollable, oftentimes in the toils of the law because of his hilarious habits. Another son, his namesake, shocked the whole community by a series of offenses which he committed. The other sons were gallant soldiers and served honorably after the war in official stations.

There were men in Doylestown more brilliant than General Rogers and others who had accumulated a greater competence; but no one of them ever did as much for the welfare of this community of a permanent character as did he. And whether he be judged as soldier, statesman or philanthropist, posterity will bestow upon him the honors which are due only to the great.

He died in the house that he himself had erected on Court street on Friday the 29th day of June, 1866, aged 67 years and 12 days. Just at the sun was setting on Monday, July 2, followed by a vast concourse of people, he was laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery which he had founded. True to his early ideals he chose four printers to carry him to his last resting place.

Great in life, he was great in death, for he left all his

worldly possessions to the wife, who had shared his triumphs and his defeats, his joys and his sorrows for forty-four years.

MANASSAH H. SNYDER

The most pugnacious editor that ever presided over the destinies of the Doylestown Democrat was M. H. Snyder. He never used the cowhide, like William T. Rogers, or his fists like John S. Bryan, upon his detractors, but he published article upon article of vituperation and billingsgate calculated to raise the ire of his political opponents and cut them more deeply. His quill was the most poisoned that ever dipped ink in the establishment and was the cause of starting more newspapers than any man who ever lived in the county. He was in "hot water" all of the time, financially and politically, and yet with it all he never had a suit in slander and has the distinction of having served ten consecutive years as Clerk of the Quarter Sessions, serving under three judges at a period when the Democrats lost the county as often as they won it. No other man ever held the office as long. And yet so impecunious was he in his habits and so much did his popularity cost him, that he was sold out by the sheriff three times, the last time just a few months before the end of his ten years of service as Clerk of the Quarter Sessions, at which latter he lost his house and lot, located on East Court street.

Snyder was the first man of German blood who presided over the fortunes of the Democrat. He was born in Lehigh County in 1803 and came here in 1827 from Reading, where he had learned the printer's trade in the office of the Adler. His purpose was to start a German Democratic newspaper. In the Democrat of February 6, 1827, General Rogers announced that "Manassah H. Schneider has issued proposals to publish a German paper in the county to be entitled the Doylestown Express. It will be Democratic in politics and appear about the first of May next. Subscriptions

will be received at this office." During the intervening time, Snyder busied himself in getting his printing material together and canvassing for subscribers, running a public lottery on the side. True to his promise, he started the Doylestown Express, publishing it for two years in the building that stood where Hellyer's store now stands (or possibly in the frame building which stood for years where the Monument House yard now is). The venture was successful and with the financial backing of Samuel A. Smith, who was then a power in local politics, and perhaps persuaded thereto by him, Snyder, about July 1, 1829, purchased the Democrat of General W. T. Rogers. The Democrat was at that time a five column, four page paper, 12 x 19½ inches, published every Tuesday in the building that stood on the east side of Main street at its junction with Court street, where the Intelligencer was published for some years just before it was removed to its present location. In his "address" to the patrons of the newspaper, Snyder used this language:

"To the Public.

It will be expected that upon assuming the Editorship of this paper, I should say something of the principles upon which it will be conducted. It shall be devoted to the cause which led Washington to the field, and placed Jefferson in the Cabinet. The principles which guided the Whigs of 1776, the Democrats of 1798, and the Jackson Democrats of 1828, will be the great landmarks by which I shall steer my course. As a Democrat, the men and measures of the Democratic party shall receive a steady support, and I shall endeavor to be a faithful sentinel of the approach of danger. . . .

"At a very considerable expense I have, as my

readers will perceive, issued the paper entirely on a new type. I shall endeavor to keep up its present dress, and believe that in appearance and matter it will not be excelled by any country paper in the state.

"M. H. SNYDER."

Mr. Snyder fulfilled that promise. The columns of his paper bear evidence that he was not only on guard to "scent danger," but that he was the aggressor in many a hard fought political encounter. There had been an independent movement in Bucks County in 1828, culminating the next year, in the edition of Peter Ihrle, of Easton, and Samuel A. Smith, who defeated the regular Democrats. Although they lost Bucks county, the whole Democratic ticket here was elected. As Ihrle was a son-in-law of Judge Ross, who was then on the Bench by Democratic appointment, and Samuel A. Smith had been Register and Recorder by the same influence, there was bitter recrimination in the campaign. As far as Snyder was concerned, it was intensified by the fact that Kelly, who had just acquired the Intelligencer, was an Englishman, born on foreign soil, and he, Snyder, was a Pennsylvania German, and they hated each other with a hate that was brutal. In his first issue Snyder calls his contemporary the "British Kelly," and declares for a clear field and no favors. "So now," he continues, "we are up to the chalk, and defend yourself like a man; and first take this Dutch slap on your British cheek just as to rouse you a little. You are a poor tool, Kelly, in the hands of as very a set of scrubbs as ever disgraced a party. . . . We shall not suffer that the leaders of the Federalists shall maintain a press (referring to the Examiner as the Democratic paper) to villify

individual Democrats without making them sensible of the enormity of their courses by returning the poisoned malice to their lips. When they feel, as they shall, the evils which the villainy of those who use your folly, and their own want of courage to shake off the vampires that are sucking their lifeblood, have brought upon them, they will not snigger as they do now, but seek the means of peace and find them. They will drive off from your paper, those who stuff it with its garbage and compel you to understand what decency means. . . . Now then, having with Dutch slaps on your English cheeks, set them both burning, lay on,

‘And though uninjured I scarce can hope to go,
Who conquers me will find a stubborn foe.’ ”

Of Eleazar T. McDowell, the one time brilliant lawyer, who had his frame office where the old Hart Bank still stands and lived in the Meredith house, now owned by the Bell Telephone Company, he says: “E. T. McDowell, alias the ‘Black Ram.’ Nature and education brazed his forehead with impudence, and everything else failing, this was supposed to qualify him to be a lawyer. He read law with Mr. Morris, (then Senator, and later Congressman) and shortly after he was admitted manoeuvred the poor devil out of his business and left him a wretch upon the world. . . . He is a most cowardly whelp—a dog in forehead, but in heart a sheep.”

Of Francis B. Shaw, Deputy Attorney General, who was then publishing the Examiner, an independent paper, from his old office where McDowell practiced law, and who had but recently been appointed, he said: “Francis B. Shaw, Deputy Attorney General for Bucks County!! Good—all right. It would have disgraced a Jackson Democrat to have received it.”

Of George R. Grantham, a Federalist lawyer of much

ability, he said: "George R. Grantham.—Now here is a beauty. If he isn't—I hope I may be shot. But why the deuce is he picked off the dunghill? Simply because it may not be known throughout the county, as it is here, that he is a mere errand boy and runner for the coalition that governs the British Press. Let him so be known and return to his dunghill."

Of Thomas Ross he said: "Thomas Ross, a stripling of old Judas (Judge John Ross), has been appointed Prosecuting Attorney for Bucks County in the room of F. B. Shaw removed. What a disinterested republican set this Ross family is. The old Drone sits on the Bench, scratching his head to the tune of about \$1600 per annum—his son-in-law thrice goes to Congress playing off eccentricities at the rate of \$8 a day and last of all Tommy, scarce clear of 'the shell on his back,' is appointed Prosecuting Attorney. Yet these are the men who cry the loudest against selfish office-holders. Verily they are faithful sentinels—they would mount the watch-tower of the people's treasury to guard it against invasion, and take all the plunder themselves."

These are some extracts showing the bitter invective which Snyder was able to command. Governor Schultze was a candidate for renomination, but was defeated by George Wolf, of Easton. Schultze threw his influence to Ritner, who had been an anti-Masonic candidate against Wolf in the Convention and made appointments wherever possible to help Ritner. This was Wolf's Congressional District and Northampton gave him a tremendous vote. The situation was further complicated by the knowledge that Judge Ross was the preceptor of Wolf, and that Judge Ross was looking for reappointment. When Wolf was inaugurated he removed some of the objectionable Schultze appointments in the Court House and appointed others. But

just at this opportune time, Judge Todd, of the Supreme Court, died and Judge Ross was able, through his association with Governor Wolf before he moved here from Easton, to secure the appointment and John Fox was appointed Judge here in his stead, which latter Snyder commended highly, but denounced the former.

The following year Samuel A. Smith decided to try for re-election to Congress and there was particular enmity between these Pennsylvania Germans.

Here is an extract of one of his editorials:

"The Traitor Smith"

"In open defiance of any usages of the Democratic Party and directly in opposition to the proceedings of the whole party, this unprincipled ingrate has called a public meeting for the purpose of placing himself as a candidate before the public for Congress and we expressly say against the approbation of a part of that Committee which he would have us believe, makes the call. The only question for the Democrats of this County to decide is whether they will waste their time in running after such a selfish, shifting cormorant as Smith, who stands already upon nomination by the anti-Masons, who consults with Federalists and Mongrels only, who has been in office all his life without qualification or capacity—or whether they will adhere to regular nominations and to a respect for the stability and union of the Democratic Party."

This language (which sounds like that of Fox) was too much for Smith and he decided to retaliate. He and another man had loaned Snyder \$300 when Smith induced Snyder to buy the Democrat, with the expectation that the favor would enable him to control Snyder so far as he personally was concerned. To

secure this payment Snyder had given a judgment bond, with the understanding that he was not to be pushed if he could not pay in the three months. After the attack upon Smith above quoted, Smith entered the bond and had Ross issue an execution, ordering the Deputy Sheriff to sell as quickly as possible.

Snyder in speaking of this transaction says: "This inhuman wretch (besides Congressman for two terms, Smith was after elected Senator and Associate Judge), expected thus to break me up and deprive me of the power of supporting a mother and her children, that he knew to be entirely dependent upon me. . . .

"This is an unvarnished statement of the pecuniary obligations I am under to this malignant member of Congress. Every honest man will rejoice in the assurance I am able to make, that the shafts of his malice have been sped in vain unless they shall recoil on himself."

With the financial assistance which the leaders of the Party then furnished him, he paid off Smith. This time both Smith and Ihrie carried the county in a three-cornered fight, by a vote which defeated the whole Democratic ticket. The Democrats were badly divided over the issue of anti-Masonry.

Snyder disposed of the Democrat to William H. Powel, in March, 1831, retaining the Express, which he published until December 1836 when he was overcome by debt and the Sheriff sold the establishment to John S. Bryan, then proprietor and editor of the Democrat. In his valedictory of the Democrat he says: "While I feel gratified for the support received from the Democratic Party, I tender my unfeigned acknowledgements to my personal friends and the liberality of the public for sustaining me against the persecutions and shafts of calumny, which have been unsuccessfully aimed at me

by a few apostate Democrats, who have thrown a somerset into the arms of Federal Anti-Masonry, and are now united hand in hand with our political opponents to overthrow and defeat the Democratic Republican Party. Such political trimmers, whose character and political integrity are always in the market and up for sale to the highest bidder, for the sake of office, will sooner or later receive the reward such treachery and want of principle deserve. . . .

"Wishing you all peace, prosperity and happiness, I close my career as editor and proprietor of the Democrat. True to the principles I have always advocated, I trust I shall never be found among the missing when the cause of Democracy—the cause of the people—calls for the aid of every honest man to march to the polls against the traitor or the common enemy of the people's rights.

Grateful for the friendship and patronage received from your hands, I remain your humble servant and co-operator in the cause of Democracy and equal rights, M. H. Snyder."

Thus from his first issue until his last his party bristles were up like quills upon a porcupine. His parting shot justified the wisdom of the Democratic leaders in placing the organ of the party in the hands of some one who would bend his energies towards consolidation.

That he carried out the promise of future activity is shown by his subsequent career. He had been appointed Postmaster by Andrew Jackson when he edited the Democrat. It was customary in those days before mail routes were established throughout the county, to have the postoffice at the newspaper offices. The newspaper proprietors were the bidders to carry the mails, because they had to have their papers

delivered and the newspaper that held the mail contract had a great advantage over the publisher who did not, because delivery, in those days, was a large item of cost.

Following the loss of the Express, Snyder was appointed, in April, 1836, Notary Public and Justice of the Peace, and had an office opposite Jonathan Brock's store on South Main street, and held these offices until 1839, when he was appointed Clerk of the Quarter Sessions. This appointment illustrates the uncertainties of politics. In the early spring of 1838 James Kelly, who had been proprietor of the Intelligencer since 1827, was compelled because of ill health and family affliction to relinquish the Intelligencer. At the time a charge was pending against him in the Criminal Court. In April of the same year, Governor Ritner appointed him Clerk of the Quarter Sessions, in place of John Dungan, whom the influential Democrats of the day succeeded in driving from office. After Kelly's appointment his old enemies got busy. They laid the record of the charges before the authorities at Harrisburg and agreed that he should not be confirmed before the coming session of Criminal Court could pass upon the charges. Although Kelly pleaded with his political enemies, the most virulent of whom was Snyder, and promised almost everything, they were relentless and with ill health coming on apace, he died a disappointed man. The next year Snyder himself landed the appointment along with John Pugh, grandfather of Arthur M. Eastburn, who was appointed Prothonotary. Such is the whirligig of politics. In October of the same year Snyder was renominated and elected for the full term, but Pugh, for some unknown reason, although a sterling Democrat, had to stand aside for John S. Bryan, then editor of the Democrat. General W. T. Rogers

was then in the Senate. In 1842 Snyder was again named and elected Clerk of Quarter Sessions, although a part of the ticket was defeated, and the same thing took place in 1845.

All this would suggest that Snyder was a politician of unusual stripe, else he could not have maintained his strength so long and retain the same office ten consecutive years. Some explanation for it is found in his friendship for Judge Fox, who, although he failed to be confirmed Judge, owing to the fight which his enemies put up against him in the Senate, was, with the aid of Chapman and Rogers, the dominant influence in Democratic politics in the county. During his whole term Snyder was active politically, serving in political meetings every campaign and busying himself particularly with military affairs, in which he had risen to the rank of Major in the Militia. He held no borough office except School Director, just as Bryan did later on, and at the particular period of which we are writing (1845) was President of the Board. But that was his last term. He had turned upon the men who made him and was induced to start a new Democratic paper, called the Independent Democrat (this was about January, 1847), in connection with C. N. Bryan. Snyder had announced in his valedictory when he sold the Doylestown Democrat, March 8, 1831, that "true to the principles I have always advocated, I trust I shall never be found among the missing when the cause of Democracy—the cause of the people—calls for the aid of every honest man to march to the polls against the traitor or the common enemy of the people's rights." For this constancy he was awarded abundantly by 10 years of office, yet before it had terminated he had joined hands with those who were opposing the regular organization of the party, to whom he used to ascribe

the name "traitor."

In September of that year his name appears to an address favoring Thomas Ross for Congress, whom he had theretofore so bitterly assailed. Within a few weeks thereafter, Snyder's name disappeared from the head of the editorial column and C. N. Bryan's appeared there alone. This newspaper was well edited, but it could not take the place against the regular party paper. In 1852 William P. Seymour, singing master and real estate operator, was made editor and he soon thereafter changed the paper into the "Watchtower." No one has apparently made a note of its departure. Snyder's name was dropped from the Democratic nomination because the Sheriff sold his real estate a few months previous thereto. His home was on East Court street, or Pennsylvania avenue, as it soon afterwards was called, adjoining the properties of Andrew Dunlap and Jonathan McIntosh. It is a sad commentary on the habits of this brilliant, but erratic, man that after ten years at the public crib (the office was worth from \$300 to \$400 a year) he should have been so improvident, but he was a hale fellow well met, who "shined" particularly in bar rooms where politics in those days were generally discussed, and his wife and four grown children were the immediate sufferers, although, as it afterwards turned out, the necessity of the family which required the oldest boys to shift for themselves, was a blessing in disguise. All of his sons became prominent men. His wife was the daughter of Elanathan Pettitt, proprietor of the Fountain House. Mr. Snyder found employment in one of the printing offices here, but continued on his downward course. Among the records of the School Board of May 7, 1852, his name appears as one who has no money and no one from whom the paltry sum of

fifty cents tax could be collected. His school tax was remitted. Such is the speedy transformation in human affairs that within a few years after he sat as President of the Board and was the controlling genius in a body of able men, he is found by the School Board of the same borough, some of its membership being the same, too poor to pay the small sum of fifty cents tax. From this time forward until the breaking out of the Civil War, Snyder is lost to public view. He found employment in various printing offices of the State, but at the call for volunteers the old patriot returned to Doylestown to strike one more blow for his country, joined the Signal Corps and served throughout the war.

On December 15, 1864, after his term had expired and he had been discharged from the Signal Corps, he paid a visit to Doylestown. That the old veteran, who had been a "soldier" in the Militia when citizen soldiering was the order of the day, had put his knowledge to good account is fully demonstrated by the certificate of character which Colonel B. Frank Fisher, the Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army, and a native of Sellersville, of this county, appended to the discharge. It was as follows:

"In Sergeant Manassah H. Snyder, we have the example of patriotism rarely met with. Fifty-eight years old when treason threatened to overwhelm the government, with all its liberties and guarantees, in praise of which he had used his pen for many years, we find him entering the ranks and grasping the musket as a—I was going to say a common soldier: but such men are not common soldiers—they are the citizen patriots for the time being. For three years, without one day off duty on account of sickness, or by furlough, has he faithfully served his country, and now in my official

capacity, as I give him his discharge, I would accord him the merit he deserves.

(Signed)

"B. F. Fisher,

"Colonel and Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army."

What higher praise can any man receive! This discharge is a priceless heirloom to his descendants, a number of whom are now prominent people scattered throughout the land he fought to save.

After his retirement Snyder went to live with his children. Three of his children were telegraph operators. One, the oldest, Benjamin Pittitt Snyder, named from a brother of his mother (a young doctor killed here in a runaway accident) was at this time the manager of the American telegraph office in the city of Washington,. The American Company was the predecessor of the "Bell." That he was a man of marked genius and high administrative order is attested by the fact that the employees of the company there presented him with a solid silver service as a mark of their high esteem, followed by a sumptuous banquet at the National Hotel, at which the press and telegraphic fraternity were well represented. Numerous speeches were made and the utmost good humor prevailed, according to the dispatch printed in the Philadelphia papers at the time,.

What a compensation for Manassah H. Snyder to know that one of the boys for whom he so tenderly pleaded in his fight with Congressman S. H. Smith thirty-five years before, should occupy such an exalted position.

But Snyder was too active to be idle. He could not enjoy himself in the fine homes of his prosperous children. He would rather take to the road and be at the printer's case in company with his "cronies," than in all the palaces that wealth could provide, and he passed

the remainder of his days in what is now best described as a "tramp printer." His latter years were clouded by deep affliction. The wife, who had been the sheet anchor in all the storms of life for nearly half a century, lost her reason and died in the Philadelphia Hospital about the end of 1872. Snyder did not survive her very long. A few months later he died at the home of one of his sons in Philadelphia, and his body was laid beside the body of his wife in Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Philadelphia.

WILLIAM H. POWEL

We have little information concerning William H. Powel. He had been one of the editors and proprietors of the Norristown Register when he purchased the Democrat of M. H. Snyder, about March 1, 1831. In his foreword he says nothing about himself and makes very few promises. He says: "The subscriber, having purchased the interest of M. H. Snyder in the Doylestown Democrat, will present its patrons next week in a new dress, and otherwise much improved. Having been at a considerable expense in procuring materials," etc., he begs a continuance of the patronage heretofore extended to it, "while every exertion will be made to render it useful and interesting."

Mr. Snyder in introducing him to his readers, says:

"Mr. Powel will enter upon his editorial duties under the most favorable auspices, with a political reputation, well established for his adherence to the old landmarks of the Democratic-Republican party of the State and Union, a supporter of the National and State Administrations, and regular nominations, which, united with talents and habits of industry, will strongly recommend him to a liberal patronage, which he merits, and which I hope may be extended to him by the public."

Powel's father was Register in Montgomery County at the time.

Unfortunately the first number and many subsequent numbers of Powel's weekly papers are not in existence, due to the destructive fire of February, 1836, when the Democrat and all its contents were burned out, but from those still extant, it can be stated that Powel made no change in the appearance or size of the Democrat, except to dress it in new type, which it badly needed. He kept the title "Doylestown Democrat," on the title

page, but he changed the inside by adding the words, "Democrat and Farmers' and Mechanics' Journal." About the biggest thing that he undertook was the publication of the great trial of Mina, the murderer of Dr. Chapinan, in detail, and the trial of Blunden for murder. These were well written, especially the former, and took up pages in the paper. There was in his time, as there was during the period of every other editor, except the present one, an opposition paper claiming to be Democratic. In fact there were two at that very period. One of them, the Republican, whose chief was the Smith-Ross element, and whose editor was John Hart (who became Public Printer of the United States just before the Civil War) gave Editor Powel much concern because of its efforts to build up its circulation among Democrats at the expense of the Democrat. Powel in reply to its appeal for support said: "The Editor of the Republican, if he needs support, should look to his own party for it. He cannot expect the support of Democrats while found in the ranks of our enemies (the Federalists and Anti-Masons), nor do we believe he calculates upon any other than the Democratic Anti-Masonry party, as they have dubbed themselves. There is, however, a very small number amongst us, most of whom have exerted themselves to become leaders without sufficient stability of mind to accomplish it, and from one of these (Thomas Ross) the production in question arises. The Republican is the organ of the discontented factionists and through it occasionally flows the malignity which must find vent somewhere. . . . We have upon all occasions openly supported the candidates of the Democratic Party and never as the 'late excheater' has done, created a division among our friends for the purpose of benefitting a brother-in-law (Ihrle) by helping with the aid of the

Federal party to place him in an office. We cannot be accused of that. The remedy, however, will be applied and the coming election will rid this district of one incumbrance—of one member of the family compact.

"It is nevertheless true, that these 'honest and sincere' anti-Masonic Republican-Democrats, as they may properly be called, are not willing to grant that any man is sincere in his profession unless he acknowledge fealty to the family compact of 'father, son and son-in-law,' and set him down at once as an enemy of the true faith."

But despite such opposition he strengthened the position of the Democrat and left it much more influential than when he purchased it. In his announcement of the sale to John S. Bryan, November 12, 1834, he says: "I came among the citizens of the county an entire stranger and attentions and kindness shown me by a very large portion of the inhabitants will be fondly cherished. I have made many kind friends, even among political opponents, and to them and all others I take occasion to offer my warmest thanks. I do not claim exemption from error, but whenever this has occurred they are those of judgment and not of the heart. If in times of high political excitement I have wounded the feelings of any individual either in word or deed, I offer the hand of friendship, trusting that the same shall be extended to me.

"W. H. POWEL"

The Democrat was returned to its original place of publication opposite the Fountain House, and Snyder kept up the publication of the Express at the corner of Main and Court streets until he was sold out by the Sheriff in December, 1835, a year later. It is not known how Powel was influenced to make Doylestown his home. At that time Bucks and Montgomery counties were in the same Judicial District. The Judges and Attorneys

travelled to Norristown and back often and the Democratic party was in the control of Judge Fox and his friends. Snyder's language, habits and business ability were such that he was not holding his own with the Jackson Courant, Anti-Masonic Register and Republican, and it is understood that these influenced Judge Fox and his friends to persuade William H. Powel to sell his interests in the Register and buy the Democrat.

He was not long a stranger in Doylestown, for he married the daughter of Enoch Harvey, owner of the present Fountain House until the time of his death in July, 1831, although rented at that time to Elanathan Pettit. Enoch Harvey had built the Harvey mansion, torn down by John Hart recently to make room for the latest Hart Building, and lived there when Powel married the daughter. Joseph Harvey and Dr. George T. Harvey were the two sons of Enoch Harvey and brothers-in-law to Powel. The Harvey family was in high standing socially and financially, so that Powel had powerful influences back of him, which enabled him to hold his own in the contest with his competitors. It is worthy of note that the Democratic party was going through the process of changing its name at that period, and it took a number of years to change from "Republican" to "Democrat." During a decade the true Democrats called themselves "Democrat-Republicans." There was at that same period the Federalist Party, which was later absorbed almost bodily by the Whig Party, the contentions which had arisen with foreign nations being such as to make the name "Federal" a term of reproach to Americans. Gradually there grew up a distinction between the Republican-Democrats and Democrat-Republicans, and in our county the organ of the former was the Republican, a paper started by

Hart in 1832, and the organ of the latter the Democrat. Finally the Democrats of Jackson and Van Buren prevailed and became orthodox, and the name Republican and dropped. The Democrat subsequently acquired the Republican and the name of "Doylestown Democrat and Bucks County Republican" was carried at the mast-head of the Democrat until January, 1861, after a new Republican party, with the tenets of the old enemy, had been formed. It was then clearly inconsistent to still carry the name Republican, and that is the reason it was dropped. The new Republican, started here in 1893, had no connection with the old paper.

After Powel sold the Democrat to John S. Bryan he went into the mercantile business on Market street, Philadelphia. After twenty years engaged therein, he bought a farm in Plymouth township, Montgomery county, his native place, where he died October, 1863. He left no children. The widow died in Philadelphia, January 11, 1875.

Mr. Powel was the only editor of the Democrat (if we except the present one) who was not elected or appointed to some office. That was no doubt due to his retiring disposition and his short residence among us. He possessed to a fine degree that urbanity and courtesy of manner which would not permit him to openly differ with a friend—a personal quality much to be admired in a saintly disposition, but one which has no place in the decalogue of practical politics, where the truth must oftentimes be bluntly stated and where a man must oftentimes take sides openly against his dearest associates. The Democrat owes much, however, to William H. Powel, for he placed it upon a much higher level than he found it. He gave tone to its color, and point to its news and editorial paragraphs,

JOHN S. BRYAN

The life and career of John S. Bryan is a splendid illustration of how an orphan country boy may, by his own energy and the influence of a good mother, achieve fame and fortune. John S. Bryan was born about 1814 in Springfield township, not very far from Applebachsville. When quite young his father, William Bryan, died, leaving him dependent upon his mother. His mother was a member of the Stokes family, being a daughter of John Stokes, a large property owner of Applebachsville, Haycock township, as appears by a description of his real estate advertised in 1834. Among his children were Samuel, Stogdell and John Stokes, all of whom became men of mark in the community. John lived in Doylestown and was the owner of a large number of houses and lots here, as the advertisement of them show. He was one of the County Commissioners back in 1824, and it is no doubt due to his prominence here that his sister, Susan, the mother of John S. Bryan, came here to live and apprenticed her boy to General W. T. Rogers, then proprietor of the Democrat, to learn the printing trade, in answer to the following advertisement which appeared August 23, 1829:

Wanted

At this office, an apprentice to the printing business. He must be of good moral habits, steady and industrious, a good boy about 16 years old, who can read and write. One from the country would be preferred.

Another sister was Rachel, the wife of Timothy Smith. Mr. Smith owned a number of properties in the centre of the town, and his ownership gave the elevation southwest of the town the name of Mount Timothy. Still another sister was Elizabeth, the mother of Stokes L. Roberts, the legislator, Congressman and Judge, who

moved from Newtown to Doylestown and died here. The Stokes' originally came from New Jersey. Governor Stokes, of New Jersey, is a member of the same family. Young Bryan, was, therefore, fortunate in his ancestry, for from them he inherited a sturdy, strong character, which, tempered with the splendid disposition which he acquired by years of care and devotion to his widowed mother, produced in him one of the best citizens that Doylestown has been ever proud to call her own. Of the Bryan ancestry we have meagre information. The family burial ground is located on a farm near Applebachsville in what was fifty years ago the farm of Isaac Welterbach, but scarcely anything remains of the place or to indicate who lie buried there, for the burial grounds ceased to be used as such about one hundred years ago. The father of John S. Bryan was not buried here. His remains lie in the Friends' burying ground, Quakertown, but his widow, having respect for the memory of her husband's ancestry, caused a small space of the grounds where they are entombed along with scores of others, relatives no doubt, but nameless now, to be enclosed with a neat and substantial stone wall, the entrance to which was through an iron gate. At that time there were chestnut and cherry trees growing over the graves. The burying ground originally contained an acre of ground conveyed for burial purposes by the Proprietors for the separate and sole use of the members of the Baptist denomination, who had erected, according to tradition, a stone church nearby.

John S. Bryan had an advantage of early environment which far outweighed the disadvantages of a lack of education in early life. His mother tongue was German, although the Stokes were not Germans, and he early learned to speak and read the language, which proved to be of invaluable aid to him when he also acquired the

ownership of the Express, the German paper. Young Bryan's mother was able to give her son the rudiments of a good education, and this was supplemented by that best of schools, the printing office. So apt did the young man become that he had scarce reached his majority when the opportunity came to him to buy the Democrat, then being published by William H. Powel, formerly of Norristown. This was in November, 1834, and from that time until his death, 29 years later, he was one of the leading figures and active spirits of Doylestown. He never held any township or borough office, except School Director, but in the wider arena of activity he held a number of military commissions, was Prothonotary of the county, nominee for State Senator and Associate Judge.

Although he met with the great misfortune of having had his entire plant burned out after he had purchased it, which left him practically penniless, he shook off the ashes, and, by strict attention to business, he was able to retire later in life upon a handsome competence. His death, which occurred when he was but 49 years of age, cut off a promising career, for he was at that time serving as Associate Judge and president of the school board, and had reached exalted position in the Masonic fraternity and Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His large measure of usefulness to the community in which he lived may be gathered in part from the narration of events in his life as they will appear in this sketch, but he is best remembered as the editor and proprietor of the Doylestown Democrat. In his salutatory, Bryan addressed his constituency as follows:

"Having purchased the establishment of the Democrat, usage has rendered it necessary that some exposition of our political course should be

given. Believing that the course pursued by my predecessor was such as to give general satisfaction to the Democratic Party, the same path of duty will still be followed, conforming in all things to the will of the party. As it is the bounden duty of the editor of a paper professing to be the organ of the Democratic Party to give his individual support to the candidates nominated. All nominations, therefore, made in accordance with the established usages will receive our cordial support. . . . To uphold the dignity of the press and to keep it as it ought to be, "the palladium of liberty," is our earnest desire, for when once it becomes prostituted to selfish and personal matters, it ceases to be venerated and sinks into contempt. . . . I now launch my bark upon the stream, trusting confidently to a kind and generous public for support, believing from the patronage heretofore extended to this paper, that I shall not be disappointed."

This from a young man who had scarcely reached his majority, was a strong editorial and set the newspaper upon a high plane. Bryan increased the size of the paper to six columns, retaining the four pages, but made them longer and he maintained that size during the ten and one half years that he was the editor and proprietor. He fixed the price at \$2 a year. The paper had already been moved back to where it was started, opposite the Fountain House. In the issue of September, 1835, Charles Savage advertises that he has moved his watch-making store to Main street in the building adjoining the Doylestown Democrat, and Savage was in that building. The Doylestown Express, the German Democratic paper, founded by M. H. Snyder and kept by him when he sold the Democrat to William

H. Powel in 1831, ceased publication in December, 1835. Bryan bought the paper in January and issued it from the same office. Things were moving nicely when suddenly, as a blast out of a clear sky, on the night of February 3, 1836, a cold clear night, an awful catastrophe struck the town. About two o'clock in the morning the alarm spread that the printing plant was on fire, and despite the herculean efforts of the citizens, who pumped every well in the vicinity dry, the fire ended with the complete destruction of the printing establishment, and the young proprietor lost everything. Even his subscription books were burned. The weekly issue had been worked off and the deliveries for the northwestern routes were packed ready for the post riders the next morning. The fire was doubtless the work of an incendiary, for the feeling ran high in those days. The young proprietor had had no insurance, and when the first excitement was over and the transition from bright prospects to financial ruin dawned upon him, strong, sturdy man that he was, he was nearly overwhelmed. But he had proved to the sterling business and professional men that he was an honest, upright man, deserving of support. And because of this, before the burning embers had become blackened, a knock was heard upon his door and there stood Dr. Charles H. Matthews, then leading physician of the town, a commanding political leader, and a personal friend of the family. He found the young man and his mother grieving over the loss, as he had anticipated. But he had come not to offer sympathy alone, but to help. They sat down in that dreadful gloom and talked over the situation, and before the conversation ended, Dr. Matthews had ascertained that about \$2,000 cash would enable Bryan to begin business. He left, and the next morning returned and placed in the hands of the late

proprietor a note to his own order, signed by John Fox, John Pugh, C. H. Matthews, Henry Chapman and William Field, five of the leading Democrats in the borough, for \$2,000, with the note marked for discount by Abraham Chapman, president of the bank. This noble act upon the part of these men enabled Bryan to issue a complete reproduction of the Democrat on February 24. He had missed two issues. Placed again on his feet, he reimbursed the Bank in full, in a short time. Speaking of this calamity he says:

"Almost everything I possessed was consumed and consequently I have been left deeply in debt and destitute of the means to re-establish the Democrat and Express, of which I was the sole and exclusive owner. The Democrat and Express will be published every Wednesday as usual at the office immediately opposite Mr. Yardley's store (now the Doylestown Drug Company). In consequence of the loss of the book containing subscriptions, we respectfully request our patrons to re-enter their names at as early a period as convenient."

During Mr. Bryan's ownership of the Democrat his time appears to have been devoted almost exclusively to its interest. There were two noted exceptions. He accepted no political office but served upon innumerable political committees, all of which were of direct advantage to his business as the publisher of the regular party organ. That he would be without opposition among men professing to be Democrats was too much to expect in those days of startling political changes, but that he remained true to the regular nominations is best shown by his commentary on the election of 1835, when it was charged Peter Gwinner, S. A. Smith, William H. Rowland and Thomas Ross entered into another scheme to defeat the Democratic nominees, who were

supported in their fight by the Bucks County Republican. Mr. Bryan, in commenting upon the defeat of the party, said:

For ourselves, we go for principles, we go for the regular nominees of our party—we go for the men who will carry out the measures which have characterized the administration of Andrew Jackson. Our flag is nailed to the mast-head, and we stand or fall with the cause we have espoused.”

That was the campaign in which Henry A. Muhlenberg was an independent candidate for Governor. In his valedictory of May 7, 1845, he says: “The Democracy of Bucks have always rallied in supporting the Democrat and Express as the accredited organs of the party.”

During the Bryan period there were serious divisions in the Democratic-Republican ranks in the party. That party was generally triumphant in the national campaigns, but the State and county comprised a field wherein many hard battles were fought. Between 1828 and 1845 the Democrats lost more battles than they won. Men, posing as Democratic leaders, would change their party standing back and forth as easily as they changed their clothes, and, as is usually the case, the proselyte becomes more bitter than the steadfast opponent. The state of feeling that existed is shown by the columns of the opposing papers published here in those days. Reference to them will suffice.

The other activity displayed was among the military. In those days a commission in the militia was a sure passport to political preferment, and almost all the prominent men in our county who held office either by election or appointment, were dignified by some military title. Bryan's start was made as Second Lieutenant of the Doylestown Grays, an organization which maintained its existence for nearly forty years, and thereafter he

ascended through the various ranks until, just prior to his death he held the highest office in the gift of the militia in the county, W. W. H. Davis, later editor of the Democrat, being his adjutant. Like every other editor of the Democrat, he was never prosecuted for libel, but he did not escape prosecution entirely. In his day there existed a very bitter prejudice against the Intelligencer and particularly against its owner, James Kelly. Kelly was brought here by Asher Miner and later bought the paper. The editor of the Norristown Herald, Mr. Hodgson, was also an Englishman. On one of his visits here some few years previous, he had a vicious pamphlet published in the Intelligencer office attacking General W. T. Rogers, who had been the editor of the Democrat but then in the Senate. The first time Rogers caught him he gave him a severe whipping with a raw-hide until Hodgson fell on his knees and begged for mercy. Afterwards Hodgson moved to Doylestown, being employed by Kelly. When he offered his vote upon election day, he was challenged and refused because he was unnaturalized. But he stood outside of the window, (they handed their ballot through a window in those vest-pocket days) and challenged several good Democrats, which aroused the ire of Mr. Bryan and he was instrumental in having him "yanked" from his perch and cleared away from the polls. Hodgson had Bryan arrested for assault and battery and he was tried in Court. The evidence that Bryan had assaulted him and handled him very roughly appeared to be conclusive, but Bryan's defense was that Hodgson was obstructing the citizens in their right to vote and was justified in what he had done. Henry Chapman was his attorney and Judge Fox was on the bench. Irrespective of the evidence, the jury acquitted Bryan.

This episode on the part of Mr. Bryan, however, was

an exception, for he was remarkably urbane and even-tempered. His editorials, written in the heat of political campaigns and under great provocation, show perfect self-control. His great love and respect for his mother, and the splendid disposition which he found in his wife, assisted him in that regard, and his active participation in community affairs later, strengthened it more still. He was a man of high rank in the Masonic Lodge here, being one of the organizers and a leading member of St. Tammany Lodge, I. O. O. F., and one of the organizers and active spirits of the Beneficial Society, a branch of the State Society, which flourished here until about 1859, so that fraternal work claimed a large portion of his effort after he retired from newspaper work. He was president of the latter organization when he retired.

In political life, in addition to the numerous committees already referred to, he was elected Prothonotary at the first election under the Constitution of 1839 by a majority of 723, a great victory in days when the majorities either way were less than one hundred. During the term of office his paper suffered, judging from the appearance of its news column. He was, at the same time, serving as Borough Treasurer of Doylestown. In 1846 he ran for the Senate and struck the reaction following the election of Polk which culminated in the defeat of Cass and the election of Taylor two years later, and he was defeated by Josiah Rich by 800, along with the rest of his ticket. Two years later he became a candidate for Public Printer at Washington, but for some reason, President Polk could not be induced to appoint him. In 1858 Judge Bartine, Associate Judge died and Governor Packer appointed him to fill the vacancy. The following years he was a candidate for re-election and defeated Isaac Kirk by a majority of 182. James Gilkyson, Whig,

was elected District Attorney over Morris Lloyd the same year by 181 majority. Bryan died in office. John Wildman was appointed to serve out the unexpired term. As associate judge under both Krause and Smyser, both of whom resided in Montgomery county, he had many important duties to perform, sometimes holding Court in their absence. He appears to have discharged his various duties to the entire satisfaction of the members of the Bar and the litigants.

Mr. Bryan was a great believer in public improvements. He believed in good roads and, at the time of his death and for years theretofore, he was president of the Doylestown and Willow Grove Turnpike Company. He believed in live stock, and was the leading figure in the Union Horse Company until the time of his death, as Rogers was president of the Fellowship until the time of his death a few years later.

He was for several years owner of the tract of woodland on the western border of the borough noted for being the picnic grounds where great dances were held. He sold it in 1854 to Dr. Harvey. It extends from just beyond the Baptist Church to beyond the borough limits between West Court street and the railroad.

At the time of his death he was also president of the School Board, having been elected to that position in May, 1860, when he first became a member of the Board and had just begun his second term. It was the year when the additional building was placed on the Academy lot for a primary building, and Thomas MacReynolds, father of the present editor of the Democrat, was the principal of the schools. There was considerable friction over the proposition to build the new building. George Lear, Esq., resigned and A. H. Barber, elected in his place, also resigned, and finally R. L. Scheetz was induced to accept it. At the next session of the Board,

Mahlon Yardley, Esq., the secretary, also resigned. His place was filled by Dr. S. M. Andrews. The Board selected Mr. Bryan and John Brock for the Building Committee, and under their supervision, Rotzel and Shade built the two-story building for \$1,248. It was during his term that the Reformed Congregation met there and was organized, meeting in the hall over the school room, at a rental of fifty cents a service. Early in the spring Judge Bryan began failing in health and the Board met at his house instead of at the Academy. On July 2, 1863, the Board met in the study of Dr. Andrews. There were present Dr. Andrews, Summers A. Smith, Harry P. Sands and Jonathan Grier. Before any minutes were read, Dr. Andrews arose and presented the following resolution:

"Resolved, By the visitation of Providence, we have been deprived of the presence of the President of this board. In his death we have lost a valuable and devoted member, and deeply lament the loss which we feel and the public schools and the cause of education have sustained."

On Tuesday morning, June 30, 1863, Judge Bryan, surrounded by his widow and his three children, departed this life. Two days later all that was mortal of him was buried in the Doylestown Cemetery in the presence of a vast concourse of people, who came from every part of the county, for no man had a wider acquaintanceship. His bosom friend, Dr. Andrews, conducted the funeral services. Just twelve years later on the day, his widow, well known and highly respected, died very suddenly from heart disease. She was a sister of Professor H. H. Hough, one of the founders of Linden Seminary, and later holding an important Government position at the National Capital. On the day previous to her death, she had performed, without any signs of ailment, her

usual domestic duties and retired about ten o'clock. About midnight she called her son-in-law, Dr. Swartzlander, with whom she lived, and told him that she felt very sick and immediately returned to her room and within fifteen minutes she had expired. Much sympathy was expressed for her family, the three children, for Mrs. Bryan was not only in the prime of life, (she was about fifty years old) but she was one of those benevolent souls that remind one of associations with angels, so kind and sweet was her disposition. She was a strict member of the Baptist Church. Following her to a grave beside her husband in Doylestown Cemetery, were her daughter, the wife of Dr. Frank Swartzlander, a leader in surgery and medicine here for a generation, and two sons, John and Benjamin, the former a successful physician in Newtown and the other holding a responsible position in the Pennsylvania Railroad at Philadelphia, all three of whom have been dead some years.

The story of the life of John S. Bryan is an interesting one, for it is part of the warp and woof of this community. From the day he reached man's estate until the time of his death was less than thirty years, yet in that brief space of time he left an impression that remains to this day. Coming here as a poor, strange orphan boy from the country, scarcely able to speak the English language, and confronted upon the threshold of life with the destruction of everything that he had except his widowed mother and himself, he yet raised himself by his boot-straps to the pinnacle of honor, fame and wealth within a short period of thirty years. Nor was one single point gained by trickery or sharp practice, for there was nought of deceit in his manhood. His short life is a shining example for the youth of our day to follow. Well might the departing words of the Guardian Angel in

Milton's Comus be applied to John S. Bryan as his spirit returned to its Eternal Home:

"Mortals that would follow me,
Love Virtue! She alone is free.
She can teach you high to climb,
Higher than the sphery clime.
Or if Virtue feeble were,
Heaven itself would stoop to her."

SAMUEL JOHNSON PAXSON

Samuel Johnson Paxson took charge of the *Democrat* about May 1, 1845, his first issue being May 7 of that year. At that time the newspaper was published in the stone house now owned by Howard W. Atkinson, and occupied by him for his Undertaking business. It is likewise the present home of the Western Union telegraph office, Bucks County Fish, Game and Forestry Association and Building and Loan Association. Paxson had had considerable experience in newspaper work but had no financial means. In partnership with his brother, Edward M. Paxson, he had been proprietor of the Newtown Journal. E. M. Paxson came here with him, read law, was admitted to the Bar, opened an office in Philadelphia, was appointed to the Common Pleas Bench of the City, then elected, and finally elevated to the Supreme Court Bench, serving within a few years of the full term of twenty-one years, when he resigned to become one of the receivers of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company.

Soon after S. J. Paxson came here he also brought here another brother, Albert S. Paxson, the father of Edward E. Paxson and Col. H. D. Paxson, the last-named a prominent Philadelphia lawyer. These brothers were of great help to the new proprietor, but the wonderful success which he achieved for the *Democrat* was mainly due to his indomitable energy and perseverance.

Samuel Johnson Paxson was naturally not a Democrat. Democracy was with him a matter of adoption, and, like all proselytes to a cause, he became more enthusiastic for the new than if he had been such from boyhood. He followed in the footsteps of a strong partisan, a man who successfully held his own, not only against the Whigs, but the political traitors in his own ranks, and the only policy to pursue was to maintain and

further arouse the militant fighting spirit of the regular Democracy of the county. He followed also in the footsteps of a practical newspaper man—a man who had learned the business thoroughly before he became proprietor and had made a great success of his paper. Thus equipped he commenced his forward drive, which, although it meant ill health for him, brought him a handsome profit at the end of thirteen years. He was the builder of the Democrat and spent more money upon its equipment than any other owner, for he not only built one new building in which to publish the Democrat, but he built a second one alongside of it, where the newspaper is now published. He was the first newspaper publisher in the county to introduce a Hoe press and run his plant with steam power. He increased the size of the paper twice, revised the second change, and, upon many occasions was obliged to issue supplements to take care of his sale advertising. He issued on Wednesday and charged \$2 in advance, or \$2.25 if not paid in advance. He claimed to have been the pioneer in the collection and publication of local news. This claim has been disputed by his chief competitor, but there can be no dispute that he was first to publish, in serial form, local articles, such as the Doan Outlaws, the Chapman-Mina murder trial and others of like character.

He never aspired to political office while he owned the newspaper, but within a short time thereafter he became ambitious to go to Congress. But the political powers had other plans, and he received no strength in the convention from delegates outside of the county.

Paxson was an orator of no mean ability, and in many campaigns, and in the celebrations which followed, he met the people whom he spoke to weekly through the columns of his newspaper face to face. This commingling with his subscribers and patrons was

appreciated. The result invariably was a renewed interest in the Doylestown Democrat. In many localities he had clubs going. Prominent members of the party, moved by the mutual desire for party success, took an active personal interest in the newspaper. This method of management brought financial results, notwithstanding the proprietor a number of times every year complained about being short of money to meet his paper bills. It enabled him to increase the size of the Democrat within three months, and a few months later he put on a complete new dress. Within two years he had bought the property now known as Monument Square restaurant and built that building for his printing office and moved his plant there in the closing days of 1847.

For some reason the place was not adapted to his uses, and about the first of the year 1850 he bought the adjoining and smaller lot, erected the present Democrat building three years later and moved his plant there in October and it has remained there ever since that time.

On May 25, 1858, Paxson retired from the Democrat, selling the plant to W. W. H. Davis, who had just returned from a residence of four years in New Mexico, to his native heath. His closing atricle is headed "Farewell! Farewell!" In it he recites how he came here without mechanical experience and without a long line of Democratic antecedents to bolster him up, or to fall back on for the confidence and support of that portion of the community which supported the paper. In speaking of the material progress achieved during his 13 years of ownership, he says that the edition was more than three times what it was when he purchased it. The paper was worked off by hand on a Franklin hand press, but as people came by platoons, he was obliged to erect a new building, procure a

revolving cylinder press and a steam engine, for the paper had become the leader in circulation in the county. He says:

"We have labored long and faithfully to this end, and all our moves in advancing the interests of the concern have been received by long and long-continued plaudits from the sovereign people. We entered into the business with a full determination to persevere, and we have at all times endeavored to make the engine scream along the track and pull the freight train through. . . . The Democratic party in Bucks county now stands as solid as a rock on all national questions and we leave the paper and the extensive establishment in which it is printed, on a top wave. Long may it continue to prosper, and long may the Spartan band of men who have so liberally patronized us for the last thirteen years, live to enjoy life, and when they are called away, may stately shade trees grow and weep around their graves. . . . We now retire from the editorial field forever, and that the blessings of Heaven may daily descend on our warm-hearted patrons, their wives and their children, will be the humble prayer of their obliged friend—S. J. PAXSON."

Mr. Paxson carried out this resolution literally. He returned to his farm near the base of Buckingham Mountain, and there in modest retirement he nursed his afflictions until death came a few years later. So far as we have ascertained, he never wrote a line for publication after his retirement, although he maintained a deep interest in the newspaper.

At the early age of 45, on May 28, 1864, just six years after he had severed his connection with the Democrat, Paxson succumbed to the dreadful White Plague.

Recognizing the certainty of the approaching end he set his home in order and resigned himself into the keeping of his Saviour, in whom he professed absolute faith and confidence. His remains were interred in Buckingham Meeting Grounds, where a modest tombstone marks his last resting place. It is appropriate to use the beautiful language of our local editor of that day, one who knew him intimately, in closing this sketch:

"June, in its summer baptism of jubilee, was wreathing the beauty brow of its first born day with fragrant flowers and roses redolent with incense—the blue above and the green beneath were braided with zephyr airs woven into melody by the murmuring of a million leaflets mingling musically with the lute-notes of a thousand wild warbles as their anthem floated in mournful cadence over forest, field and fern.

"It was an hour most fit for Paxson's burial time! One like the loving and lost would ever wish to linger upon their final farewell to things temporal. As we thoughtfully reclined sheltered from sun-gleams 'neath the shade of a mammoth chestnut tree, which, doubtless, for a century past has kept faithful watch and ward over the countless ones who sleep the slumber eternal in the grave ground on Buckingham hillside—there winds slowly up from yonder valley, trailing along its western base, a hearse with pall emblems, bearing within all that is mortal of Johnson Paxson. Upward and onward moves the long funeral cortege of weeping relatives and sorrow stricken friends. Into that olden Meeting House, rich and rare in its remembrance, its many sunny and sad scenes of both bridal and burials—within its quaint and quiet walls which

seem festooned with stern and strict simplicity—friends true and devoted bear his throbbless heart, his lifeless form. It is a sad—a solemn spectacle. On those wan and wasted features, where in the years gone by toyed the vim and vigor of his indomitable energy and resolution, gaze in long and lingering look his venerable parents—his widowed wife and fatherless daughters—a broken band of brothers—the playmates of both his sunny child and early boyhood—the employees of the Democrat establishment who will ever regard and revere him—his brethren of the mystic tie—his friends and foes political. There follows a silence which blooms into grief. A few brief words from the trembling lips of an honest friend, then the sweet, silvery voice of Sarah Betts rippling out her earnest words of spiritual consolation—the coffin closes—the mourners move with sad step out to yon open grave—and then they laid him away with his God.

‘He, the brave and strong who cherished
Noble longings for the strife!’

Footsteps faded away into silence; but nature, ever mindful and material, placed her chosen warblers there. Sweet briars in gala garb smiled and bowed their incense laden portals—the dews of nightfall silvered that lone mound with sparkling spangles—the moon, like true knight sentinel, warded darkness from his grave—it was embalmed by shower-clouds weeping tears of amber over the earth couch wherein he slumbers. To rest and repose we resign him.

Mere words of sympathy are idle now, and it is not our province to tender it to those who will long lament the loss of a protector and friend. We would not invade their secret sanctuary now sacred

to sorrow, yet it is a revelation of no ordinary gratification which enables us to state that Paxson's death bed was truly one where the angels of perfect resignation happily hovered. For years a patient sufferer from that insidious disease of which he was the destined victim—and whose inception was attributable only to his earnest endeavor in his sphere of toil—he yet hoped cheerfully on during even the last winter, that when the gentle spring-time should bud forth, his health would rally and rejuvenate, and he would be his former self once more. Some three weeks previous to his demise this fondly cherished illusion vanished; for, while out riding with a brother for the last time, and while suffering from physical prostration which was only too apparent, he remarked in his emphatic manner: 'Oh, this weakness!' and from that hour there seemed to have been given to him a premonition of what was speedily the result. Upon his return home he calmly commenced and deliberately completed the entire management and disposition of all his business affairs in the retiracy of the room wherein his life drama was to end; and then closed without a murmur the volume of this world's affairs so far as related to his own personal interest. Always and ever conscious that death's inexorable doom was rapidly approaching its final fulfillment, his entire attention was devoted to meeting the Destroyer with that true humility which best becomes a man. Conscious of the coming event—sustained by the moral strength of a life usefully and honorably employed—he gave himself to prayer, and upon several occasions was assisted in his supplications at his own special request by pious neighbors who called upon him. There was

no vain-glorious professions—no boasting pretense, but the earnest self-reliance of one who knew in whose promises and mercies he had confided his eternal welfare. A considerate, yet stranger, friend presented him with a set of placards upon which were printed in letters large and legible, one or two verses of Scripture intended for the use of the sick, and so adjusted upon rollers as to be always within eye view, which interested him deeply and he was particularly punctual in regard to this being changed every succeeding morning at the same hour. But a brief period before his soul's departure, his voice seemed for a moment to resume its wonted power, while he repeated in firm, faultless tones as his eye resumed its former penetrating glare and hectic flushes lingered upon his cheek, the verse commencing: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

Near the sunset of Saturday evening, while intently watching his family weeping at his bedside, he whispered, 'Why do you appear so sorrowful? I see nothing to be sorry for!' Thus, his last lamp of life faded flickeringly out until, his labor over and his duty done, he fell asleep

'Like one

Who wraps the drapery of his couch around him
And lies down in pleasant dreams.' "

It is needless to add that this deserved tribute is an extract from the pen of the Washington Irving of Bucks county, John P. Rogers, who wrote much for the Democrat in those days. The Democrat of May 31, 1864, made editorial reference to its former editor, extracts of which follow:

"Mr. Paxson was born in Bucks County in September, 1818, and began life with no other aid than his own force of character and energy. While

quite a young man he was engaged with his brother in the publication of the Newtown Journal, which was published during the years 1843 and 1844. In 1845 Mr. Paxson purchased the Doylestown Democrat of the late Judge Bryan, who was then its editor and proprietor, and commenced its publication as sole editor and owner. At the time this purchase was made, Mr. Paxson was without any pecuniary resources and negotiated the purchase money by the aid of friends. From the time he assumed control of the Democrat, he devoted himself to his duties with an assiduity and an energy which is rarely manifested even in this country. Those whose recollection does not extend to a period anterior to his control of the Democrat, can have no idea of the change he wrought in it, except that transpiring in the immediate vicinity of Doylestown never found its way into the columns of any paper published in this or any other county. Mr. Paxson rightly judged that a summary of county news was an essential element of a country newspaper, spared no expense in obtaining the earliest intelligence of local events and faithfully chronicled every item. The general news of the day was carefully condensed and republished; great care and attention was bestowed upon the selection of literary matter; and each week a column was devoted to the interests of agriculture. These features were all new and unheard of innovations upon the Rip Van Winkle somnolence of country journalism; and his contemporaries of the press in Bucks and adjoining counties were aroused to imitation and competition. But Mr. Paxson, as he had been the first in the introduction of them, and until the hour that his editorial connection with this paper closed,

maintained its superiority as a local newspaper over all rivals. It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Paxson occupied that relation to the local press of Pennsylvania which James Gordon Bennett, of the New York Herald, so long retained of the journalism of New York, and that he left it greatly improved in respectability and weight of influence. His connection with the Democrat continued until 1858, when he sold it to Colonel Davis, the present proprietor, and retired to live upon the competence he had so meritoriously acquired.

"As a political editor, Mr. Paxson's career is well known to the people of the county. He adhered to his party with fidelity—advocated its principles warmly and contributed in no small degree to its success. It is a fact long to be remembered that, during his editorial management of the party organ, the Democracy of the county suffered defeat but once. As a writer, Mr. Paxson was ingenious. His style was bizarre and quaint, and it resembled that of no other man. He had a dry humor, which was well fitted both for offensive and defensive purposes, and rarely came off second best in a contest of personalities. Two articles emanating from his pen are present to the mind of the writer at this moment. They are a description of a contest growing out of a bank election in 1857, which exhibits in a marked degree the quaint peculiarities of his manner as a writer. The other a hand-bill announcing the result of the Presidential election in 1856, which was republished in many papers throughout the Union and which the writer saw republished in the Daily Times of Manchester, England, as one of the curiosities of American political literature.

"While Mr. Paxson was actively engaged in

attending to his editorial duties, he was also steadily acquiring the confidence of his political friends, and the respect of the community. After he retired from active connection with the Democrat, he still retained and evinced his fidelity to his party, and in 1862 his name was presented as a candidate for the Democratic Congressional nomination in this District. He failed in obtaining the nomination, but received the almost unanimous vote of the delegates from this county, who adhered to him during four successive ballots. Although defeated, he supported the nominee of the Convention zealously—and had he lived, would in all probability, have been the successful candidate for the next Congressional Term. In private relations, Mr. Paxson was worthy of imitation—he was industrious,—prudent—with a wise and liberal prudence—and a moral and upright man. No better proof of his kindness of heart and amiability of temper can be given than that which is displayed by the fact that his employes will be amongst his most sincere mourners, as they ever were to be counted amongst his truest friends.

“His premature death at the age of forty-five is a public loss—as well as a great private calamity to those to whom he bore relation of a husband and father; and by none will it be more deeply felt than by the many young men, who, in his office learned the business of their lives, and whose careers of virtue and usefulness at the editors’ desks throughout the Union attest the value of those principles of business industry and honesty which guided and influenced the life of Samuel Johnson Paxson.”

W. W. H. DAVIS

There were several military men among the ten editors who have presided over the destinies of the Democrat, but the only ones who ever saw active military service were M. H. Snyder and W. W. H. Davis. Snyder entered the army after he had closed his editorial career, but Davis was a veteran in the war with Mexico before he became the editor and proprietor of the Democrat. While in Mexico he had written a number of letters to the Democrat and later when he was an office holder in New Mexico for a period of four years he was for more than a year the editor of the Santa Fe Gazette, a weekly paper published in English and Spanish. From the first experience he imbibed a love for newspaper work, and from the second venture he gained the experience necessary for a successful editor and publisher. There were a number of really great men who had preceded Davis in the editorial chair, among whom were Cameron, Rogers and Bryan—men who had risen by their own merits to high and honorable positions in the gift of the nation, but Davis had a domain all his own, into which none of his predecessors could enter. Unlike them he had the advantages of birth and education. Behind him reaching back to the Revolution and the establishment of this government was a line of great men, every one of whom had made an impress upon the pages of history. From them he inherited a military genius which molded his career into martial channels. His grandfather was a Revolutionary soldier upon many blood stained battlefields, and a sufferer at Valley Forge, his father a veteran of the Marcus Hook and of the second war with Great Britain. It is no wonder that young Davis was born to the profession of arms and that he splendidly justified this legacy.

W. W. H. Davis was born at Davisville, this county,

July 27, 1820, while Lewis Deffebach was the first proprietor of the Democrat. His father, General John Davis, was a captain in the War of 1812 and reached the highest position in the militia in this district, composed of Bucks and Montgomery counties. In civil life he had been the Democratic nominee for Congress three times and elected once. He was appointed Collector of the Port at Philadelphia and for several terms was Collector of Canal Tolls at Bristol. As a political orator he had few superiors. Frequently called to distant parts of the State, he was never worsted in debate. At the Bear, Northampton, at Applebachsville, Haycock, and other stamping grounds in this county he was pitted by the leaders against Caleb N. Taylor, for more than a generation the doughty champion of the foes of the Democratic party and the advocate of dismemberment of the county. From the father the son received the means of acquiring a thorough education which culminated in his admission to the Bar, 1846. He was engaged in a number of cases, but his opportunity to win success was cut off by the opening of the war with Mexico. At the time he was a member of the Doylestown Grays, but, finding no prospects of getting into the war from here, he succeeded in becoming attached to Cushing's Massachusetts Regiment and served until the end of the war. Returning home he again opened his law office. He and his friends had sufficient influence with President Pierce to have him appointed District Attorney of New Mexico and he spent four years there in establishing law and order. During a portion of that time he was the acting Governor. Returning again to Doylestown he decided that the life of an author was best suited to his tastes. He purchased the Democrat in 1858 from Samuel Johnson Paxson and entered upon an editorial career which lasted until 1901,

a period of forty-three years, interrupted by the period when he was in active service in the Civil War. When the war broke out, Davis was captain of the Doylestown Guards. He immediately tendered the services of the company to Governor Curtin and was promptly accepted, but the delay at Harrisburg and York allowed troops from other States to reach Washington first. The Doylestown Guards were justly entitled to be the first troops to reach Washington in response to the President's call for volunteers. After the term of enlistment had expired, Captain Davis returned with the company to Doylestown, laid down the sword and once more took up the pen. But only for a brief period. His military knowledge convinced him that there was need for many more soldiers and he at once took up the task of recruiting a regiment. This he succeeded in doing and the record of the 104th Pennsylvania Regiment is an honorable and historic one. Colonel Davis' chief fame as a soldier rests upon the record that he made with his famous regiment. Before its term of service was ended, he had begun the history of it. It is not our purpose to refer to the military record of Colonel Davis. The files of the Democrat of December 27, 28 and 29, 1910, immediately following his death, contain a full account and are easily accessible. It was during his period of service that an event took place which had considerable bearing upon his newspaper work. He was wounded in his right hand by the explosion of a shell. He lost the use of his hand for some years, during which time he had to learn to write with his left hand. Finally he was able to clutch a pen in his right hand, but the wounded hand handicapped him greatly throughout the remainder of his life. When his term of enlistment expired, Colonel Davis entered with his whole energy into the work of editing the

Democrat, and in his spare moments (if any moments are spare in such a busy life) he turned out volume after volume of books, which in themselves meant an immense amount of labor. No other Bucks countian has ever written so many volumes. They were mostly historical, of the kind that required time for research. He began writing in 1857 and kept at it for more than forty years. His first book was "El Gringo," published in 1857. This is now a standard work, much in demand. It is a history of New Mexico and contains valuable and accurate information. This was followed by another historical work, "The Spanish Conquest of New Mexico," another classic romantic history of the Spanish occupancy. George Bancroft, the great historian, complimented Captain Davis upon this latter work, and it is universally admitted to be the best authority upon the subject. After he returned to active work on the Democrat, he finished the history of the "One Hundred and Fourth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers," 1866; "History of the Hart Family," 1867; "Life of General John Lacey," 1868; "History of Bucks County," 1876; "Life of John Davis," 1886; "History of Doylestown Guards," 1887; "Campaign in the Shenandoah," 1893; "The Fries Rebellion," 1899; "Doylestown Old and New," 1904, and a revised "History of Bucks County," 1905.

The most pretentious of these works were the histories of Bucks county, which entailed an immense amount of labor. In addition to these, he wrote many short pamphlets and sketches for the Historical meetings. All these works detracted to a considerable extent from the energy which otherwise would have gone into the columns of the Democrat. Thus his readers suffered, but it may well be questioned, since one must be sacrificed, whether it was not best, after all, that the

books should have been written. They served, however, to add to the fame of Colonel Davis.

As a political manager he was not a success. He was anxious to be Auditor General soon after the close of the war. He was nominated once and the next time defeated for the nomination. But the times were not auspicious for the success of Democracy. Many years later he was nominated for Congress in this District, and Congressman-at-Large, but defeated at the polls along with the remainder of the ticket. The only political office that he ever held was Pension Agent at Philadelphia, from 1885 to 1889, appointed by Cleveland during his first term.

Colonel Davis had an independent turn of mind, although always susceptible to reason. When he assumed control of the Democrat, while supporting the Administration, he nevertheless took issue over the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. This resulted in the establishment of the Standard, an opposition Democratic paper. During the whole period of its experience, that paper, well edited, poured its vials of wrath upon Davis. But the Standard and its adherents were forced into a defenseless position when they followed Breckenridge as against Douglass, who was being supported by the Democrat. There was no more loyal supporter of the integrity of the Union than was Davis and the Doylestown Democrat, and, upon secession becoming a fact, Davis was prompt in offering his services to the nation. The Standard could not extricate itself from its position and was glad for the opportunity to sell out to the Democrat. But the old copperhead spirit was not dead, and when Davis was in the war fighting for the integrity of the Union, these same influences wrote articles and published them in his own paper criticizing the conduct of the war. It has been charged that this interfered with his promotions. This

is not a likely explanation. Colonel Davis lacked political ability and tact, and therein lies his failure of promotion.

After the war was over he was instrumental in collecting the balance of the fund for the erection of the Soldiers' Monument in Monument square. This will always remain his monument.

In the public affairs of a civil nature, Colonel Davis took a leading part. With Darlington, his competitor, he engaged in real estate transactions upon an extended scale. He was one of the strong advocates of the introduction of water into the borough, and made the motion in Council that at last won its introduction. He was a leading spirit in the erection of Lenape Hall, a very necessary public improvement, now in private hands. He was the father of the Bucks County Historical Society and President from its organization until the time of his death. His is the credit for maintaining the society under adverse conditions.

Colonel Davis was a man of sterling qualities. Notwithstanding this, his political enemies entered into a most foul plot against him, which, although he thoroughly vindicated himself, greatly affected him. Some of the perpetrators were convicted and sent to prison. Colonel Davis was a man of work. Before people were astir in the borough, he was at his desk. And at night, after other men younger than he was, had retired for the night, he still burned the midnight oil. His was a long life of great usefulness which has well earned for him the title of a great man. Probably no higher ecomium can be passed upon him than the tribute which was paid to his memory by the Democrat of December 28, 1910:

"The removal of a man like General Davis from the activities of life is naturally a great loss to the

county. His labors, it is true, belonged to a generation that had passed, but they will live long after him. He became prominent in more branches of human activity than any man born in the county, and, in that respect, he was excelled by few men. At various times he was soldier, lawyer, editor, politician, author and historian, discharging the duties of all well, and becoming noted in some.

"As a soldier he had no superior in the late Civil War. Had he been accorded the rank due him, and and given the opportunity to have displayed his military tactics in a larger field, he would have quit the service as one of the greatest generals of the war. As an organizer and tactician he excelled, inheriting his fondness for the military from his fighting ancestors. Next to his military skill, General Davis will be best remembered as a historian. He was a voluminous writer and some of his work, especially that of his earlier years when he put the enthusiasm of youth into it, is of a high order. He entered the editorial chair without any special training. While he was fond of the work, his talents were those of an author rather than an editor, although he attained success and fame in both capacities. His historical work gives him a place which he carved out for himself and will hold for all time. As a politician, General Davis was not an unqualified success because he had no liking for the political details. He was a warm believer in the principles of the Democratic party and was patriotic and public spirited at all times, wielding a trenchant pen in defense of the party and its candidates, but the accomplishments of the successful politician he did not have.

"General Davis was a success by reason of his

palinstaking industry. To him genius was spelled by the four letters—W-O-R-K, and the amount of work he did was wonderful. He would turn from one task to another as some men turn from work to sports, and find recreation in the change. Like all men, General Davis had very many good qualities. He seldom bore personal resentment against those, by whom, at times, he was bitterly assailed. He spoke his mind freely, was frank sometimes to a fault, but he was always sincere. He was a friend of the young man and no worthy youth who appealed to him for the aid of his influence in securing work, was ever turned down. Many men today, holding responsible positions, owe their start to a line or two of endorsement from the pen of General Davis, for, wherever he was known over the country, his recommendations commanded respect."

Colonel Davis died on Monday afternoon, December 26, 1910, at his residence on East Court street, in the ninety-first year of his life, and was buried in Doylestown Cemetery.

His editorship extended nearly half a century. During all these years he scrupulously maintained the principles upon which the Democrat was founded, increased its patronage and advertising and improved it in every direction. Under his guidance, the Doylestown Democrat became better known in every newspaper office in the State. He is remembered for many things that he accomplished, but will be remembered the longest as the Editor of the Doylestown Democrat.

GEORGE MacREYNOLDS

In presenting a short sketch of the present editor of the Democrat we invade the domain of the living, and any sketch must therefore be imperfect and incomplete. No just estimate of the work of a man can be made until a full decade after death, much less during life.

George MacReynolds is the most modest and retiring gentleman who ever had the good fortune to occupy the editorial chair, with the possible exception of Benjamin Mifflin, of whom we know but little, and yet to him must be accorded the honor of being the most polished writer of them all. His diction is as beautiful as that of Macauley, his style as perfect as that of Gibbon and his imagery and description as clear and true as that of Irving. He is the first of our editors who was born and reared in this immediate community. He grew up with its traditions and was molded by its environment. Acquainted with the whole field of the Democrat from boyhood, he has brought to his work a broad conception of the place a newspaper should occupy in the community. He possesses the advantage of a thorough knowledge of the business, having learned the printer's trade, and passed through every gradation to the highest position upon the newspaper.

Mr. MacReynolds was born in Doylestown, and is a son of Thomas MacReynolds, principal of the Academy, Member of Assembly, Surveyor and business man. He was a man of fine ability, splendid education and business integrity, and from him the son acquired a taste for literary and scientific pursuits. A glimpse into the character of Thomas MacReynolds is found in his action taken September 15, 1862. He was then the Principal of Doylestown Borough Schools, and that night he asked the permission of the Board to volunteer for

State Defence and to resign his position. His services, however, were not required.

After completion of his "trade" upon the Democrat, George MacReynolds took a position upon the reportorial staff of the Bethlehem Star, but in a short time he returned to the Democrat and was the local editor for many years under Colonel Davis before he was advanced to the responsible duties of editor in 1901. The lessee of the paper at that time carried his own name at the mast head as editor, but he did not write an editorial and had nothing to do with the arrangement of the news items. Mr. MacReynolds was the real editor. In 1904 he was formally elected to that position and has occupied the chair since that time. He has advanced the standard of the Democrat and his editorials have been quoted in many of his cotemporaries throughout the State.

In addition to his editorial work, Mr. MacReynolds is the author of a number of articles on Birds and on the Flora of this locality. He is recognized as our best authority upon both of these subjects. There is not a species of bird or plant in this locality but that Mr. MacReynolds is familiar with. His "Sunday Walks" in the Democrat, are browsing grounds for the naturalist and his advice and information is eagerly sought.

Probably his most pronounced activity aside from newspaper work, is in connection with the Bucks County Fish, Game and Forestry Protective Association, of which he has been Secretary since its organization. Much of the credit for the success of the organization is due to his untiring efforts. He has been instrumental in having our streams and lands stocked and restocked with game, fish and birds, to preserve their supply for the future. A clean sportsman himself, he unselfishly devotes a large measure of his extra time to advance the in-

terests of forest, field and stream. Perhaps his largest literary work is his "History of the Fellowship Horse Company," written for the Department of Local History of the Democrat. He has contributed liberally also to the "History of the Doan Outlaws." In social activities, Mr. MacReynolds was a leading member of the famous "T. O. S. Club," of Brock's Orchestra and Doylestown Base Ball Club.

But Mr. MacReynolds' career is still before him and his life work has only begun.

WEBSTER GRIM, President,
Doylestown Publishing Company.

EDITORIAL

It is with much pride that The Doylestown Democrat today celebrates the rounding out of a century of its existence, which is referred to more fully in the following pages. One hundred years in the newspaper business is a long time. It is difficult for the mind to grasp the progress the printing trade alone has made within that time, to say nothing of the manifold changes that have taken place during the same period in every avocation of life. It is just 277 years since the first printing was done in America. It was not until 116 years later that the religious and civil restraint was removed from the printing press, which prior to 1755 was under a watchful and censorious eye. It is 212 years since the first newspaper was established in Pennsylvania—the American Weekly Mercury at Philadelphia on December 21, 1719, which was only America's third newspaper.

From the time of the establishment of the first newspaper, in 1704, down to the founding of The Democrat, in 1816, there had been some changes in the art of printing, but they were insignificant compared with the marvelous revolution that has marked the progress of the art since 1816. For example, The Democrat, in its career of one hundred years, has witnessed every change made in the printing press save one, namely, the substitution of the lever for the original screw of the handpress. For very many years The Democrat, in common with all newspapers of the day, was "worked off" on a lever hand-press. The first editions of the paper knew no printers' rollers, ink-balls being used to put "color" on the forms. The Democrat saw the change, from the Washington hand-press to the cylinder hand-press, in which the cylinder was pushed back and forth over the forms on a ratchet, the bed

being stationary. Then the movable bed with rotary fixed cylinder was substituted for the movable cylinder, the motive power still being by hand. Next came the introduction of steam for propulsion, followed from year to year by a multitude of changes and improvements in the press itself, but there was never any real change in the principle of the rotary press. At the present time the printing press is probably the most perfect piece of large mechanism that human ingenuity ever designed. A dozen or more years ago it had reached such a degree of perfection that there have been no important improvements made to it since, except that electricity has almost wholly supplanted steam as the motive power.

The Democrat has also passed through all the changes which have revolutionized typesetting, from setting by hand, which was in vogue for about four centuries before there was any improvement, to the setting of types by machine, and finally typesetting by the Mergenthaler linotype, which casts the lines of type from matrices. One of the latest models of new linotypes was placed in The Democrat office this week, giving the office a battery of three machines. With every printing improvement for country newspaper offices The Democrat has kept pace, in fact, anticipated some of them, notably the application of steam as power. It was one of the first presses in the country to dispense with hand power.

The varied achievements of The Democrat have been notable. This newspaper was a very important factor in fostering the solidarity of the Democratic party during the hundred years of its career. In earlier days, when expressions and literary contributions were very widely quoted and had marked influence upon public opinion. From 1816 down to 1916 it has consistently supported

every nominee of the Democratic party, county, State and national. There has never been any question about the party fealty of The Doylestown Democrat, and in victory or defeat the Jeffersonian principles, incorporated and reaffirmed in the first Democratic national platform of 1800 and perpetuated by a long line of distinguished Democratic Presidents and statesmen down to the present time, have been maintained and defended with a constancy that has been as fixed as the North Star. It has always been this paper's belief that, in the sturdy advocacy of these principles by a regularly constituted party, backed by a pure, strong and fearless party press, depends the safety and perpetuity of the American Republic.

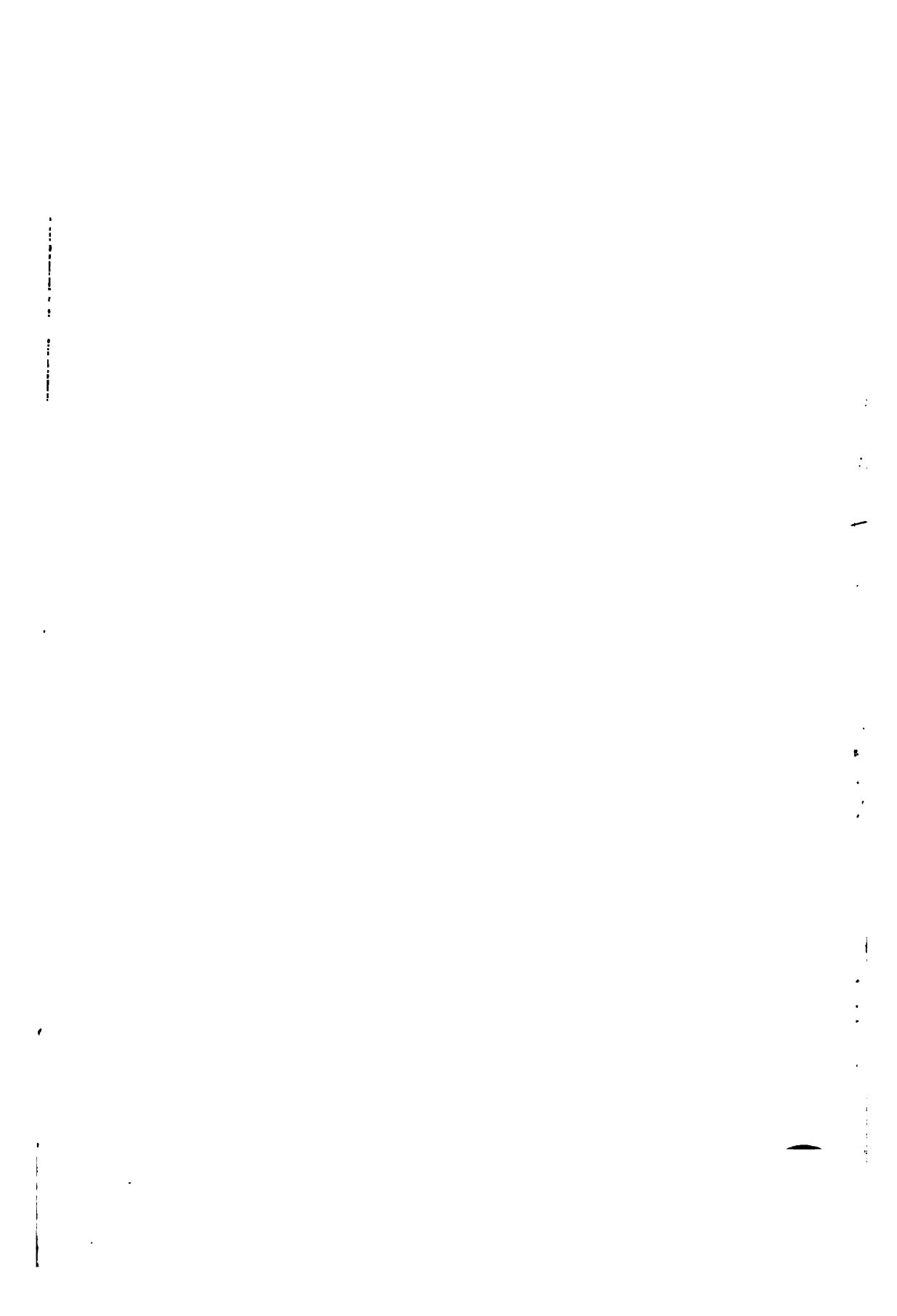
But The Democrat has ever been very much more of a factor in the county's life than a mere political organ, much as we may glory in its political accomplishments. It has always encouraged civic progress. It has recognized the important place the church and public school occupy in the community and the part each must play in human achievement. It has catered to the social, literary and musical tastes of its people; it has encouraged education; it has aided and abetted every sort of legitimate business interest. No well-ordered, common-sense plan of community improvement of any character that bore the stamp of real merit ever appealed in vain to The Democrat for its support. This is not the time to discuss whether a good newspaper's work is as fully appreciated by the people as it should be. There can be little doubt, however, that future historians must give to the press the great credit due it for its part in the country's marvelous development.

Early editors of The Democrat were among the first to perceive that the leading mission of a newspaper was to furnish the news, local as well as foreign, and long

before any city newspapers began to devote much attention to that branch of newspaper work, The Democrat was in the field with the local news. The Democrat was also the first newspaper to extensively use local correspondence, and this feature was quickly imitated by rival papers, but for many years this paper admittedly had the ablest corps of correspondents of any newspaper in the State. The Democrat was the first rural newspaper to take up the local serial story idea. In later years it has endeavored to arouse public interest in our rich field of local history, in nature study, in our attractive rural scenery, in our magnificent locations for country homes, in our unexampled landscapes for the study of those artistically inclined, in the industrial possibilities of our healthful and beautifully-situated towns and in the splendid agricultural resources of Bucks county.

Today, under the benign auspices of an epoch-making Democratic administration, The Doylestown Democrat can look back upon its century of past usefulness, conscious that it has had some real part in blazing the way to the golden age in which we live. It has lived to again see its political tenets as triumphant as they were in the year in which it was born. These principles of the Republic's founders have been the one thing that have endured changeless in all these years; they are as virile in the national life of today as when Jefferson wrote them into the birth of the new nation, and they are the hope and the safe guiding stars for the future.—
THE EDITOR.

Doylestown, Pa., September 15, 1916.



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